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PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Cover:
Oscar De La Hoya courtesy of Top Rank
Ricardo Williams Jr.-Diogenes Luna Martinez by Al Bello/Allsport

Cover Design:
Joe Kalman

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PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

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RINGSIDE

As disappointing as it was, I don't think American fans should get too freaked out because the United States Olympic boxing team failed to win a single gold medal for the first time since the 1948 Games. Sure, it would have been better if our boxers had returned from Australia festooned with gold, but things aren't nearly as grim as they may seem on the surface.

In the past, professional boxing was given a tremendous boost when American boxers won gold. The 1976 team, which included gold medalists Ray Leonard, Leon and Michael Spinks, Howard Davis, and Leo Randolph, was probably the best example. But that was back in the days when Olympic boxing was shown live on prime time TV and considered part of the mainstream. Today, except for the Machiavellian politics and frequently appalling officiating, international amateur boxing has little resemblance to the professional game. True, a gold medal can still earn a fighter a handsome signing bonus and jump-start his professional career, but as history has demonstrated, Olympic gold doesn't necessarily guarantee corresponding success as a pro.

Even more important is the fact that nonparticipation or failure at the Games doesn't rule out success in the paid ranks. A quick glance at this issue's pound-for-pound ratings *(page 13)* reveals that only two of the 10 boxers ranked, Oscar De La Hoya and Lennox Lewis, were Olympic champions. The other eight, including pound-for-pound leader Sugar Shane Mosley, either failed to win a gold or didn't even compete. This trend is reinforced by Eric Raskin's article, "Who's Next? The Fighters Most Likely To Be P-4-P King" *(page 38)*, which doesn't include a solitary Olympic gold medalist among the boxers under consideration.

One of the major reasons that the correlation between Olympic and professional success has lessened in recent years is that Olympic boxing has pretty much evolved into a patty-cake competition governed by an absurd computerized scoring system. If the same style of fighting and scoring ruled the pro ranks, arenas would be empty, TV boxing virtually extinct, and pay-per-view superfluous.

There has been a lot of talk that boxing will be dropped from the Olympics by the time the 2004 Games roll around, and while that would be lamentable, it's detrimental effect on the pros will be negligible. Professional boxing thrives on well-matched bouts between good fighters who have proved themselves as professionals. As I write this in early-October, fans around the world eagerly await the 154-pound unification between Felix Trinidad and Fernando Vargas. And you know what? Not one less ticket or PPV will be sold because neither fighter captured Olympic gold.

***

One thing the professionals should consider adopting from Olympic boxing is the use of gloves that fasten with a strip of Velcro. They seemed to work well in Sydney and would certainly eliminate all those annoying timeouts caused by the tape around a fighter's gloves coming unraveled. Besides, as far as I can tell, the only reason for fixing the tape during the round is aesthetic. When was the last time you saw a boxer injured by a dangling piece of tape?

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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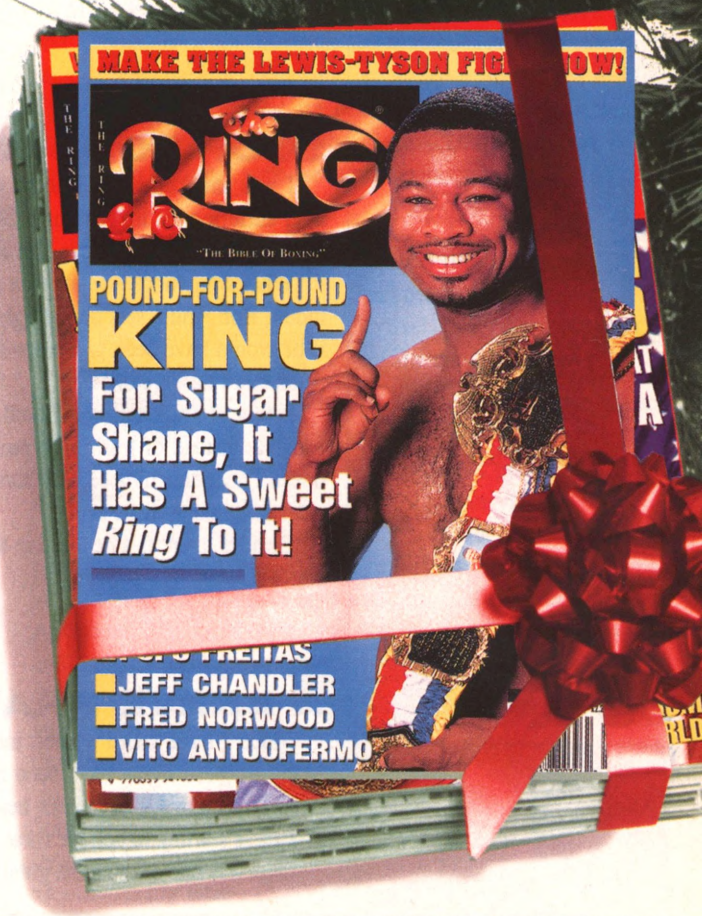

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

STOP SOBBING, OSCAR!

I was shocked when I heard Oscar De La Hoya's comments at the postfight press conference after suffering his loss to Sugar Shane Mosley on June 17. His comments were not only foolish and irresponsible, but also made him appear somewhat paranoid.

What's this nonsense about a conspiracy? Not only does De La Hoya go on to say that his promoter, Bob Arum, sets up his fights in a way that forces a rematch, "The Golden Boy" also adds that if he would have been given a win, there would be no need for a rematch. Does this mean his opponents don't deserve one?

I believe De La Hoya should be a man and accept that he lost fairly and decisively to Shane Mosley, instead of trashing a profession that has made him a multimillionaire. The Sweet Science doesn't need this unnecessary scrutiny, so if Oscar feels this way, I believe he should seriously consider retirement (as he said).

Besides, there is a new kid in town, Sugar Shane Mosley, and he has the goods—plus he's a class act!

FABIAN SALAS
Stone Park, IL

A BRAVE BRAWL

Since I have taken a keen interest in boxing, I have witnessed many so-called "superfights." Many of these fights have been major duds, such as Holyfield-Lewis I and De La Hoya-Trinidad. After these fights, I have been hearing many sports fans saying that boxing is turning into the WWF, and I was starting to believe these critics until I witnessed the Antonio Diaz-Micky Ward war.

This was one of the most grueling fights that I have ever seen. I don't know how many times Ward was on the verge of collapsing when he just came firing back at Diaz. This was the bravest performance that I have ever seen from any fighter, and I would love to show this fight to all those people who criticize the sport of boxing. I am hoping to start my own boxing career soon, and after viewing the Diaz-Ward battle, I now know what will be expected of me when I step into the ring.

RONAN KEENAN
Dublin, Ireland

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

The Antonio Diaz-Micky Ward fight renewed reader Ronan Keenan's faith that the Sweet Science can still produce captivating fights. Keenan, who has aspirations to be a pro boxer, felt Ward's performance in defeat was the bravest he'd ever seen.

TACKING ONE UP

First, he separated Roberto "Grandpa" Garcia, one fight displaced from his title-losing effort against Diego Corrales, from his senses with a sensational final-round knockout on the undercard of the David Tua-Obed Sullivan fight. Then he starched grizzled veteran Freddie Pendleton with only the fourth

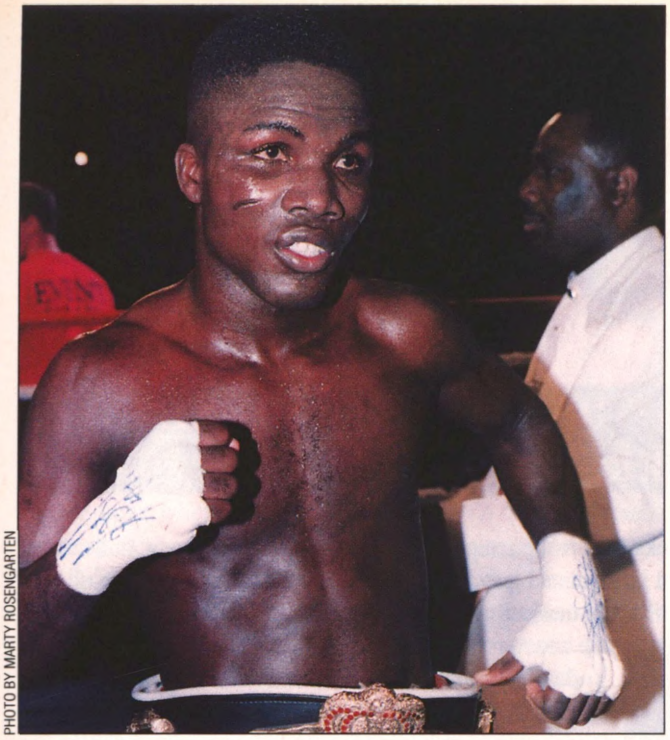


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

All the world loves a slugger. Ben Tackie's one-punch knockouts of Roberto Garcia and Freddie Pendleton sure have reader Paul Haberman excited.

punch he landed in the first round. A round of applause, please, for Ben "Wonder" Tackie, who has emerged with those two highlight film knockouts as not only my choice for king of the kayo for the year 2000, but also as the most deserving contender for a world championship in the lightweight range today.

PAUL HABERMAN
Washington, D.C.

EVANDER SLANDER

If Evander Holyfield knew when to retire, he'd still have all of his fans. But I've found from conversing with my boxing acquaintances that he's losing more and more fans, including myself. John Ruiz is not a great fighter, but the fact is that he deserved to win the fight. The judges acted like Holyfield was still the champ and needed to be beaten badly to lose. He wasn't a champ, and the bogus way he helped Don King strip Lennox Lewis of the WBA belt by appearing in court was shameful. We waited a long time to have just one champ.

When I saw Holyfield use his shoulder with great force against Ruiz, I started to think that maybe Mike Tyson was right when he said that Holyfield would first look up at his face before headbutting and meant to do it. Holyfield wants to make history, but history is made, *not forced*, which is exactly what Holyfield's done. It's just not real. I no longer believe him to be a very exemplary character in or out of the ring. Lennox was right when he called Holyfield a hypocrite.

DAISY RIVERA
Bronx, NY

HEAVYWEIGHT WASTELAND

Besides Lennox Lewis and David Tua, the rest of the heavyweight division is sorry at best. It is one of the weakest since the mid-1950s and early-'60s. Michael Grant must still be considered a prospect, but he has a lot of ground to make up. I always felt that Larry Donald was overrated. The Klitschko brothers may make some noise in the near future, and Chris Byrd is a clever boxer, but his lack of power will be his downfall. Hasim Rahman and David Izon are good, but it's doubtful they or anyone I just mentioned will ever be champions.

JIM AMATO
Ashland, OH

TYSON TALK

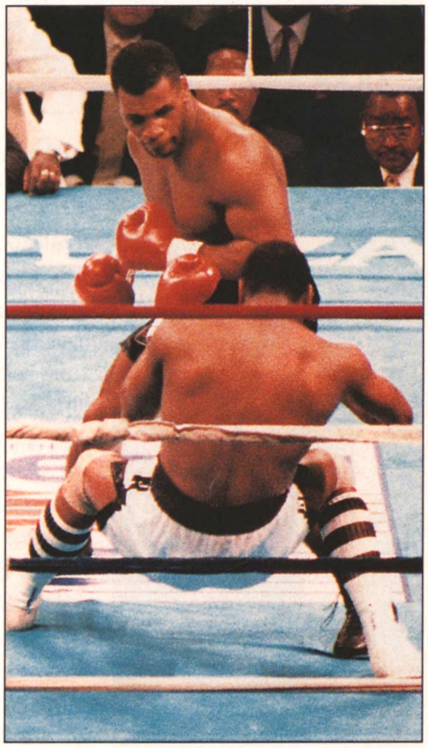
Mike Tyson is now little more than a media sideshow freak, and as attendance for his fiasco in Scotland would indicate, fight fans, at least the true fight fans, are no longer interested in Mike Tyson the boxer, if they are interested at all. Considering the recent Bob Lee scandal, for the good of boxing, if there is any good left in boxing, I hope we never again see Tyson in the ring or in THE RING.

ART MEDINA
Corpus Christi, TX

At this point in a certain boxer's career, being full of anger, hatred, temper tantrums, and uncertainty, I would like to now take a seldom-seen stance in this boxer's career by simply saying thank you. Lately, this is the last thing anyone would say concerning this controversial fighter, because it seems most people forget the enjoyment he gave us for the majority of his career.

It's sad that more people can't say thanks with me. Thanks for the extra excitement you added to my life every time you stepped into the ring, giving us, in most instances, the show of a lifetime. And thank you for showing me that the people quickest to love and embrace you are the ones who are quickest to trash and condemn you in times of turmoil. Some of your actions inside and outside the ring are clearly unacceptable, but don't let that overshadow the beauty and magic you brought to the ring. I hope the best for you and your uncertain future. I hope to hear Jimmy Lennon Jr. announce you again as "the new heavyweight champ representing Catskill, New York." Thank you, Mike Tyson. I won't forget.

SHAWN BLAIR
Cambridge, Ontario ■

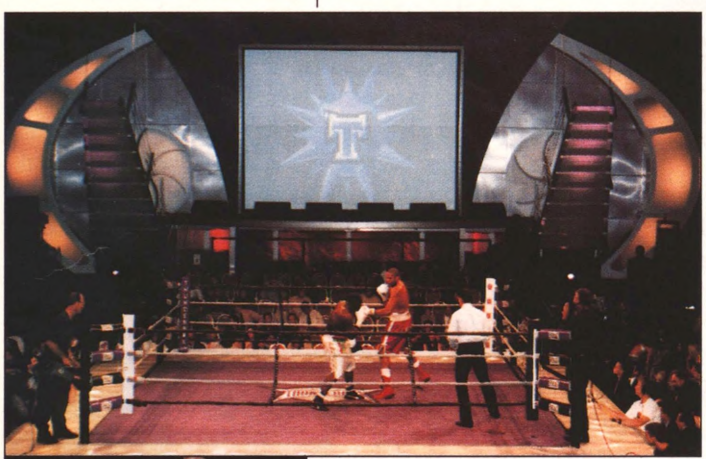


There is much fans should be thankful to former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson for, writes reader Shawn Blair. One instance could be Tyson's spectacular one-round annihilation of Michael Spinks back in 1988.

ROUND ONE

THIS THUNDER MAY NOT MAKE EVERYONE RUMBLE

Promoter Cedric Kushner thinks he has the recipe for boxing success in the new millennium: Start with scantily clad round card girls painted gray, borrow a little runway-walking and trash-talking from professional wrestling, mix in a musical performance by Wyclef Jean, and stir it all up in the raucous Hammerstein Ballroom in Manhattan, New York. The result is called *Thunderbox*.



Thunderbox features an elaborate set (top) and plenty of dancing girls (left).

PHOTOS BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Thunderbox is geared more toward the cigar-bar crowd than the hardcore boxing fans. As far as quality fights go, the debut *Thunderbox* card held on September 14 was sorely lacking. Many of the eight bouts on the card simply featured two blubbery guys pounding away on each other. But the fighters were not the real attraction anyway. Flash definitely takes precedence over fists in *Thunderbox*.

Thunderbox is both the name of the show and the name of the heavyweight tournament within the show, which features Kushner prelim guys in a competition that resembles something staged by Vince McMahon and the World Wrestling Federation. Boxers advance based not only on whether they can knock their opponents out or outpoint them, but also on a scoring system where points are awarded for aggression in the ring and workrate. Penalty points can be assessed by the television announcers if they decide to call for the "Punch Clock" when a fighter is not active enough. A fighter then has 30 seconds to throw at least 10 punches, or he will be penalized one point.

Interesting features outside the ring involve something called "Thundertalk," in which a fighter can earn points for being the best trash-talker, and "Thunderwalk," in which points are awarded for the best ring entrance and ring style. At the end of the tournament, the top two overall scorers will fight for the *Thunderbox* championship, while the next two highest will fight for third place. Four of the eight bouts on the September 14 card were part of this tournament.

A typical "Thunder Bout" matched a decent fighter like Charles Hatcher, 12-2 (8), against a journeyman like Andre Payne, 4-8-1 (3). Again, the packaging was the lure. Though Payne had no real chance against Hatcher, he did dominate the Thundertalk and Thunderwalk segments. It was only when Payne stepped into the ring that he had real problems, like trying to keep the more talented Hatcher off of him.

The intermission featured Jean singing a few songs and getting the crowd worked up. The shame of the event was that the only real fight of the night came last, pitting solid veterans Al Cole and Terrence Lewis against each other. By that time, hardly anyone was left to watch, which is never a good sign. While the gimmicky shtick of *Thunderbox* was entertaining on many levels, it certainly won't hold much appeal for hardline boxing fans.

—Joe Santoliquito

SETH STEPS DOWN; ROSS IS BOSS

Abraham: Out

Greenburg: In

Just a few months after Lou DiBella left his post as senior vice president of programming at HBO Sports, the transition of power continued with the announcement in early-September that the title of president of HBO Sports was being vacated by Seth Abraham, and filled by Ross Greenburg. Depending upon whether Greenburg and Kery Davis (DiBella's replacement) approach their roles similarly to the way Abraham and DiBella did for so long, this sudden overhaul at the deepest-pocketed boxing network could have major effects on the sport.

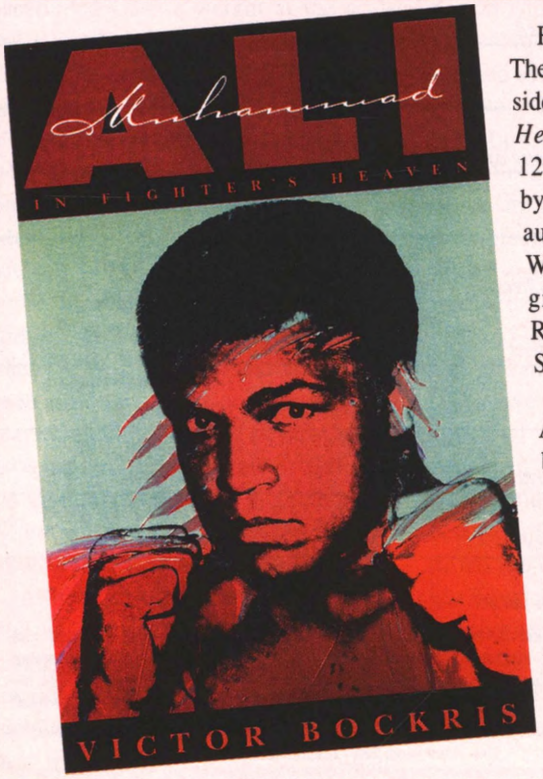
After a 22-year tenure with HBO and its pay-per-view arm, TVKO, Abraham left to become the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Madison Square Garden, where he will answer only to Garden President Dave Checketts. With Abraham's experience negotiating with boxing promoters, his move certainly bodes well for the future of the sport at "The Mecca Of Boxing." Industry insiders have suggested that Abraham's decision was influenced by the pending merger between Time Warner (HBO's parent company) and America Online, as Abraham's future was rumored to have been uncertain with the new suits moving in.

Greenburg has been with HBO since 1978 and served as senior vice president and executive producer of HBO Sports from '85 on. Greenburg was an award-winning producer, but it remains to be seen whether he can be as successful making the programming decisions.

"For the past 22 years, HBO has been blessed with a sports team that carved out a unique leadership position for HBO Sports," said HBO Chairman and CEO Jeff Bewkes. "Seth and Ross provided the inspiration and leadership for a sports division that consistently produces the most compelling sports programming on television. Ross' promotion will enable us to continue uninterrupted the challenge of producing sports television's most engaging programming."

—Eric Raskin

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



For a different kind of look at The Greatest, readers should consider *Muhammad Ali In Fighter's Heaven* (Cooper Square Press, 127 pages, paperback, $16.95) by Victor Brockris, who has also authored biographies of Andy Warhol (whose painting of Ali graces the cover), Keith Richards, Lou Reed, and Patti Smith.

In the early-1970s, when Ali planned to become "the black Billy Graham," he selected Brockris as the "young, white, college educated long hair" to take his message to all the other "young, white college long hairs." Ali gave the youthful writer practically unlimited access, inviting him to stay at his Deer Lake, Pennsylvania, training camp (hence the book's title) on numerous occasions over the years.

Brockris, who calls Ali a "bundle of contradictions," is a keen observer of human nature and does a good job of revealing the many layers of the fighter's complex personality. Another of the book's strengths are the lengthy quotes from Ali, including much of his poetry, which Brockris takes far more seriously than most writers of the day, especially those on the sports beat.

Although the subject is the most famous fighter of all-time, *Fighter's Heaven* is more a social documentary than a boxing book. Taken in that light, it's not only an insightful read, but also a haunting peek at what might have been if Ali had quit boxing before the rigors of the ring took such a terrible toll.

—Nigel Collins

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
9-8-00	Stephane Ouellet W 10 Davey Hilton	ESPN2	sm	C	C-	C+
If you think this wasn't about setting up a fourth fight, Don King has a pay-per-view card he'd like you to buy						
9-8-00	Arturo Gatti W 10 Joe Hutchinson	ESPN2	w	C+	D+	C+
Gatti survives Wyoming-sized cut over left eye to pound out decision win						
9-9-00	Winky Wright W 12 Bronco McKart	HBO	jm	B+	A	B-
Talk about bad luck; McKart finally gets a big fight and it has to be against Wright again						
9-9-00	Cliff Etienne KO 3 Cliff Couser	HBO	h	C+	B-	C+
"Black Rhino" overwhelms marginal prospect in Couser, rumbles toward another ***KO Nation*** *appearance*						
9-9-00	**Derrick Gainer KO 11 Freddie Norwood**	**PPV**	**WBA f**	**A-**	**A-**	**C+**
Gainer finally wins belt, validates adage, "If at first you don't succeed, hit 'em in the nuts"						
9-9-00	Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 J. L. Valbuena	PPV	jf	B+	D-	D+
Not Barrera's best outing, and it'll probably get him fight with "The Prince"						
9-9-00	**Roy Jones KO 10 Eric Harding**	**PPV**	**Unified lh**	**A+**	**C-**	**D**
What a drag that Jones saved for a pay-per-view audience his most lackluster performance in years						
9-15-00	Antonio Ramirez KO 3 Terrance Churchwell	ESPN2	l	C	B+	A
Bombs away! Both fighters hit canvas in second before Ramirez overpowers Churchwell in third						
9-15-00	**Jose Luis Castillo D 12 Stevie Johnston**	**ESPN2**	**WBC l**	**A**	**A**	**C+**
Have all the wars caught up with Johnston, or is Castillo really that good?						
9-16-00	**Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Felix Flores**	**Show**	**WBA jw**	**A**	**C**	**C+**
Mitchell wins every second except for the eight he spent on the canvas in the fourth						
9-16-00	**Joel Casamayor KO 5 Radford Beasley**	**Show**	**WBA jl**	**A**	**C**	**B**
Like junior lightweight needed another tiger; Casamayor impressive torching tough but inexperienced challenger						
9-16-00	**William Joppy W 12 Hassine Cherifi**	**Show**	**WBA m**	**A**	**C-**	**C**
Is it any wonder Keith Holmes keeps turning down a Joppy fight?						
9-17-00	Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 6 Mike Williams	FOXSN	h	C+	B-	C+
Clay-Bey returns from retina surgery to starch Williams with picturesque right hand						
9-22-00	Sammy Ahmad D 10 Julian Letterlough	ESPN2	lh	C	A-	B+
Letterlough's kayo streak ends in hard scrap between two hard-nosed pugs						
9-22-00	Alex Bunema W 10 Derrick Graham	ESPN2	jm	C+	C	D
Bunema scores four knockdowns in one-sided drubbing; Graham completely outclassed						
9-23-00	Harry Simon W 12 Rodney Jones	Show	jm	B+	C-	D+
How the hell did this guy beat Winky Wright?						
9-23-00	Acelino Freitas KO 9 Carlos Rios	Show	jl	B+	C+	B-
Freitas is one of those flawed powerpunchers who's going to be fun to watch for as long as he's around						
9-24-00	Lamon Brewster KO 1 Val Smith	Uni	h	C	D	C
Brewster rebounds from loss to Cliff Etienne with blowout stoppage						
9-24-00	Jorge Paez W 10 Justo Sanchez	Uni	l	D	C+	C
Why is Paez still fighting? He has to keep paying the guy who shaves slogans into his head						
9-29-00	James Butler KO 6 Jose Spearman	ESPN2	sm	C+	C-	C+
"Harlem Hammer" quickly becoming one of the game's most consistent knockout artists						
10-6-00	Teddy Reid KO 2 Juan Carlos Rubio	ESPN2	w	C-	D+	D+
Rubio no match for hard-slugging Reid, who took fight on four days notice						
10-7-00	Mount Whitaker KO 2 Robert Davis	HBO	h	C+	B-	B-
If Whitaker can do this without knowing how to throw a right hand, imagine if he learned!						
10-7-00	Kirk Johnson KO 4 Oleg Maskaev	HBO	h	B+	A	B+
Can someone explain how Johnson twice struggles with Al Cole, then flattens Maskaev?						
10-7-00	Paulie Ayala W 12 Johnny Tapia	Show	f	A+	A+	A-
You can complain about the decision if you like, but not about the fight; another barn-burner						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

DUFF-FECTION FROM THE NEW YORK COMMISSION

Disgusted with what he described as the "politicization" of the beleaguered New York State Athletic Commission, Bob Duffy, who had handled the day-to-day operations as the director of boxing since 1996, resigned on September 6. The commission has been under fire lately for being a patronage mill for political appointees with little or no knowledge of boxing. Duffy began working for the commission 14 years ago as an inspector and became a full-time employee five years ago. Often working more than 50 hours per week, he was paid $41,000 a year while many of the new appointees were earning considerably more.

It was the Arturo Gatti-Joey Gamache debacle in February that brought an onslaught of negative publicity to the commission. According to Duffy, Tony Russo, who had been recently named the executive director, insisted on handling the weigh-in himself, even though that task was normally one of Duffy's responsibilities. A controversy ensued when Gamache's handler, Johnny Bos, questioned Gatti's weight at the scale and was allegedly waved off by Russo. The controversy escalated into a full-scale brouhaha when Gatti entered the Madison Square Garden ring the following evening 14 pounds heavier than Gamache and sent Gamache to the hospital with a brutal second-round knockout.

"While I still don't believe anything criminal happened, if I had been doing what I was paid to do, and what I had been doing without controversy for years, I don't think any of this would have happened," said Duffy. "But people were more interested in getting their picture on television and in the newspaper than the safety of the fighters."

Although Duffy was considered the nuts and bolts of the commission, other members were given the plum jobs and big raises. "To get a job, it helped to know someone in the Republican Party, contribute money to the Republican

Duffy: Fed up with the NYSAC

Party, or work for the Republican Party," said Duffy. "Because I had been hired under a Democratic regime, everybody assumed I was a Democrat and kept telling me to change parties. In a sport where lives are often hanging in the balance, there were people more worried about party affiliations."

Even though the FBI, New York State Inspector General's office, and the New York County District Attorney's office are all actively investigating the commission, Duffy has never been linked to any wrongdoing. He was sickened to leave a job he loved, but believed he could no longer do it effectively in such a chaotic environment.

"I love and respect fighters and the sport of boxing too much to get involved in all this political crap," Duffy said. "When people suggested I become a Republican, I never even dignified the comments. But I guess there is a bit of irony in all of this. If anybody ever bothered to check, they would have found that I am a registered Republican. I even voted for the same Republican governor twice."

—Robert Mladinich

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Maloney: Back with Warren

Frankly, my dear, this is big news in England: The two most prominent Franks in British boxing (at least with **Frank Bruno** retired), promoter **Frank Warren** and manager **Frank Maloney**, who worked together briefly in the early-'80s before becoming strong rivals, have rejoined forces. Maloney ended his partnership with **Panos Eliades** and **Panix Promotions** in late-August and immediately joined the staff of Warren's **Sports Network**. "We couldn't work together anymore," Maloney said of Eliades. "We shook hands and parted. But this move will be the best for British boxing." Maloney and Eliades will continue to do business together for a while, though, as Maloney still manages many fighters promoted by Panix, most notably **Lennox Lewis** ... The court case between IBF middleweight champion **Bernard Hopkins** and his former promoter, **America Presents** (both are suing each other for failing to live up to their contract), ended in a hung jury in late-August. If a settlement can't be reached, a rematch could be scheduled for December ... In the United States, we riot when our teams win championships. In Mexico, apparently, they honor their sports heroes in similarly senseless ways. The Sinaloa, Mexico, home of **Julio Cesar Chavez** was sprayed with gunfire in early-September, and Chavez attributed the shooting to exuberant fans who were shouting, "That's the house of the champion" ... **Lynne Carter** and **Velma Garrick**, two boxing officials who were denied New Jersey licenses and filed a suit accusing New Jersey commissioner **Larry Hazzard** of gender bias, settled out of court in early-September and were expected to be working in the Garden State again shortly thereafter. Carter is a judge, Garrick a referee ... British super middleweight contender **Dean Francis** was sentenced in early-September to two years in jail on charges of unlawful wounding and assault from a 1998 incident. Francis, who hadn't fought since suffering a shoulder injury in October '98, was almost set to make his ring return when the judge's ruling came down ... Super middleweight prospect **Daniel Judah**, brother of IBF 140-pound champion **Zab Judah**, was arrested and charged with battery following an incident at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas in late-August. According to Las Vegas police, Daniel was prevented from entering the press conference following the **Fernando Vargas-Ross Thompson** show—on which he fought—and he struck a 27-year-old female security guard and a 63-year-old male security guard. There were conflicting reports as to whether Zab was involved in the scuffle. The boys' father, **Yoel Judah**, posted bail for Daniel the following morning, and it was left up to the district attorney's office to decide whether there would be any further penalty ... Looking for a place to eat in the Jasper, Alabama, area? **Butterbean** recently opened his own rib shack, called Mr. Bean's Barbecue. "I never met an oven I didn't like," quipped the portly puncher ... Heavyweight contender from the 1960s and '70s **Henry Clark**, a **Muhammad Ali** look- and act-alike, died in late-August at the age of 55. Clark, 32-11-5 (8), battled the likes of **Sonny Liston**, **Ken Norton**, **Zora Folley**, **Eddie Machen**, and **Earnie Shavers**, and also sparred thousands of rounds with **George Foreman**. The cause of his death was not released.

Butterbean: Really cookin'

THE PUNCHLINES

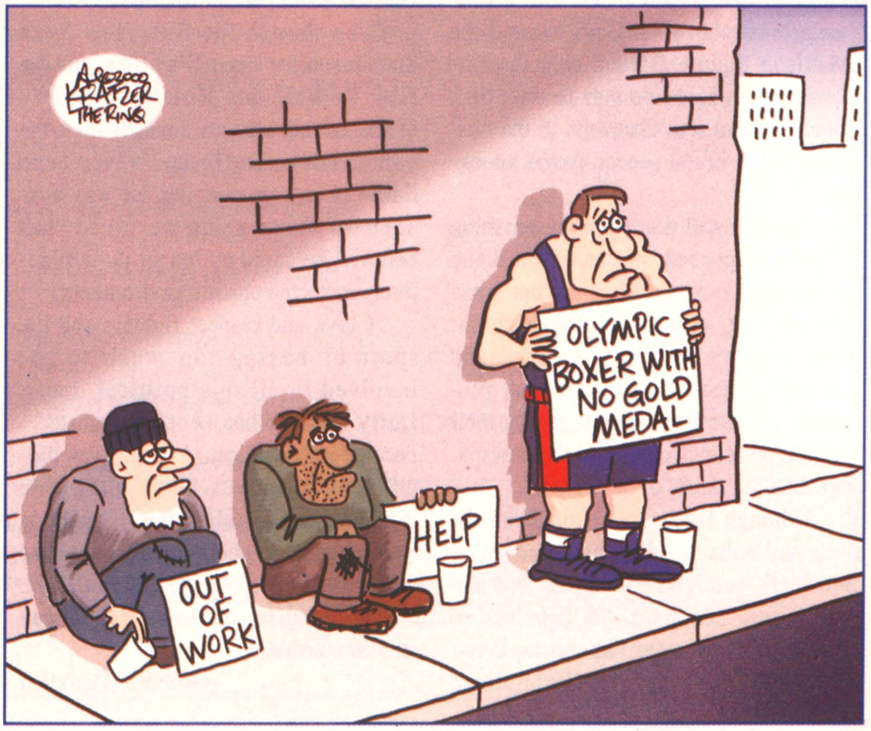
"Yeah, but you gotta make sure you're wearing ear protectors and there's no barbecue sauce on your children."

—Roy Jones, responding to questions about whether he would be interested in fighting Mike Tyson

"I'm going to abuse him as a favor to all battered women in America."

—Floyd Mayweather, on a potential fight with Diego Corrales

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For the period ended October 10, 2000)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **SHANE MOSLEY** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Junior Middleweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
5. **DIEGO CORRALES** Junior Lightweight
6. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
7. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
8. **ERIK MORALES** Featherweight
9. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Junior Middleweight
10. **LENNOX LEWIS** Heavyweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Previously unranked Kirk Johnson's kayo of Oleg Maskaev (third last issue) was impressive enough to earn the Canadian the number-three position, while Maskaev slumps to sixth. David Izon (10th last issue) departs to make room for Johnson.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Louis Azille debuts at number 10 following his first-round kayo of Saul Montana, who held that spot last issue. Active Carl Thompson (eighth last issue) trades places with inactive James Toney, who slips to from seventh to eighth.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Off his latest left-hook knockout win, over Jose Spearman, streaking James Butler is aboard at ninth, while former WBC champ Markus Beyer (ninth last issue) falls to 10th. Another former champion, Richie Woodhall (10th last issue), exits to make room for Butler.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Armand Krajnc goes from sixth to fifth on the strength of his kayo of Bert Schenk (seventh last issue), who departs. Hassine Cherifi dips from fifth to sixth following his one-sided loss to William Joppy. Undefeated Howard Eastman debuts at number 10.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: James Page, who was stripped of the WBA belt for failing to defend against the organization's mandatory challenger, Andrew Lewis, slides from third to fourth, which pushes Vernon Forrest (fourth last month) up to third.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Diego Corrales has relinquished the IBF title, but remains among the 130-pounders until he has his first fight at 135.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Even though he lost a close, controversial decision to Paulie Ayala at 126 pounds, Johnny Tapia enters the featherweight ranks at number six. Angel Vazquez (10th last issue) leaves to create space for Tapia, who is competing at a much higher level.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Tapia (third last issue) departs to campaign as a featherweight, pushing everyone behind him last issue up one spot each. Rafael Marquez is in at 10th. Meanwhile, Ayala fails to overtake Tim Austin for the top spot due to the inconclusive nature of his rematch win over Tapia.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Leo Gamez leaps into third place after knocking out Hideki Todaka to capture the WBA crown. Todaka (third last issue) tumbles to eighth. Adonis Rivera (10th last issue) leaves to make room for Gamez.

FLYWEIGHTS: Former champion Jose Bonilla (eighth last issue) exits due to inactivity, making room to bring back undefeated Frenchman David Guerault at number 10.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: No changes. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended October 10, 2000

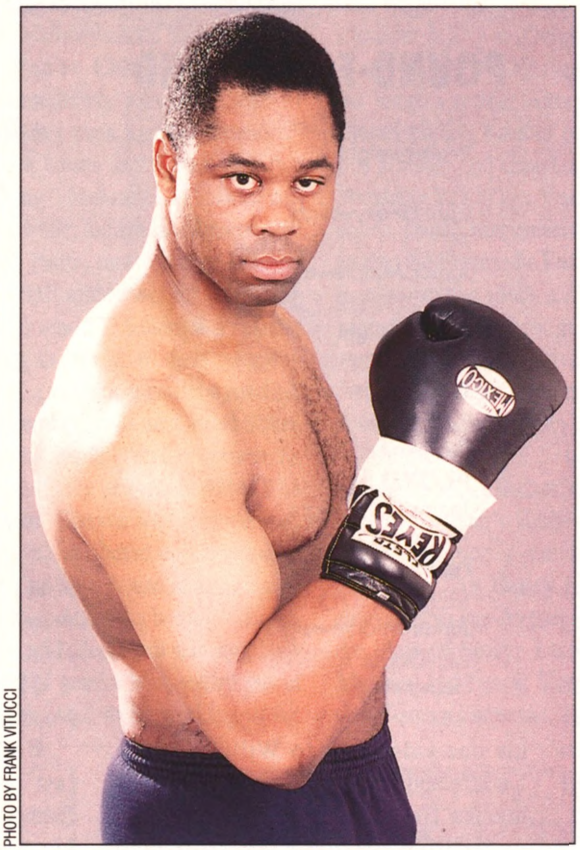


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Kirk Johnson beamed up to number three at heavyweight with his knockout of Oleg Maskaev

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *37-1-1 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **DAVID TUA** New Zealand *37-1*
3. **KIRK JOHNSON** Canada *30-0-1*
4. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *37-4-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *48-3*
6. **OLEG MASKAEV** Staten Island, NY *20-3*
7. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *31-1*
8. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *31-1*
9. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *36-4*
10. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *34-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Puerto Rico *38-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA *20-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **DAVID REID** Philadelphia, PA *14-1*
4. **IKE QUARTEY** Ghana *34-2-1*
5. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO** Spain *50-4 (WBC Champ)*
6. **HARRY SIMON** Namibia *20-0*
7. **WINKY WRIGHT** St. Petersburg, FL *40-3*
8. **BRONCO McKART** Monroe, MI *42-3*
9. **YORY BOY CAMPAS** Mexico *75-4*
10. **TONY MARSHALL** Albany, NY *34-8-6*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED** England *35-0*
2. **ERIK MORALES** Mexico *38-0*
3. **PAUL INGLE** England *23-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **DERRICK GAINER** Pensacola, FL *34-5 (WBA Champ)*
5. **GUTY ESPADAS** Mexico *33-2 (WBC Champ)*
6. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Albuquerque, NM *48-2-2*
7. **FRED NORWOOD** St. Louis, MO *37-1-1*
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico *32-2*
9. **MANUEL MEDINA** Mexico *57-11*
10. **MBULELO BOTILE** South Africa *26-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Mexico *51-3*
2. **BONES ADAMS** Henderson, KY *40-3-3 (WBA Champ)*
3. **LEHLO LEDWABA** South Africa *31-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **WILLIE JORRIN** Sacramento, CA *27-0 (WBC Champ)*
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** Las Vegas, NV *23-3*
6. **NESTOR GARZA** Mexico *38-2*
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** Mexico *28-1-1*
8. **ANTONIO CERMENO** Venezuela *38-3*
9. **MANNY PACQUAIO** Philippines *28-2*
10. **OSCAR LARIOS** Mexico *38-2-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** Cincinnati, OH *21-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **PAULIE AYALA** Ft. Worth, TX *31-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand *27-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO** Colombia *42-2*
5. **CUAUHTEMOC GOMEZ** Mexico *48-7*
6. **JOHNNY BREDAHL** Denmark *46-2*
7. **ADAN VARGAS** Mexico *34-2-1*
8. **JORGE LACIERVA** Mexico *17-3-3*
9. **MAURICIO MARTINEZ** Panama *18-3-1*
10. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ** Mexico *21-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ**
   Germany *31-0* (WBC Champ)
2. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan *26-0* (IBF Champ)
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France *42-1* (WBA Champ)
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England *38-12-1*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina *29-3-1*
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Pensacola, FL *33-5-1*
7. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England *27-5*
8. **JAMES TONEY**
   Las Vegas, NV *59-4-2*
9. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *45-3*
10. **LOUIS AZILLE**
    Jersey City, NJ *14-0-2*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *43-1* (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany *42-0*
3. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA *19-1-1*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *40-6-1*
5. **DAVID TELESCO**
   Port Chester, NY *23-3*
6. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL *39-3*
7. **CHRIS JOHNSON**
   Canada *25-1-1*
8. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL *16-1*
9. **GREG WRIGHT**
   Bronx, NY *18-6-2*
10. **DERRICK HARMON**
    Chicago, IL *20-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany *20-0* (IBF Champ)
2. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales *29-0*
3. **BRUNO GIRARD**
   France *38-3-1* (WBA Champ)
4. **DINGAAN THOBELA**
   South Africa *40-7-2* (WBC Champ)
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA *35-7*
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *38-6*
7. **GLENN CATLEY**
   England *26-4*
8. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL *21-1-1*
9. **JAMES BUTLER**
   Bronx, NY *17-1*
10. **MARKUS BEYER**
    Germany *18-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *37-2-1* (IBF Champ)
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. *31-1-1* (WBA Champ)
3. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. *35-2* (WBC Champ)
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA *24-3-1*
5. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden *24-0*
6. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France *30-4-1*
7. **BRIAN BARBOSA**
   Passaic, NJ *28-4*
8. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
   Washington, D.C. *30-7-3*
9. **SYD VANDERPOOL**
   Canada *28-2*
10. **HOWARD EASTMAN**
    England *30-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *35-0* (WBC Champ)
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *32-2*
3. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *31-0*
4. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA *25-3*
5. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *51-3-1*
6. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *31-4-1*
7. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia *28-0-1*
8. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark *21-0*
9. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *34-2-2*
10. **ANDREW LEWIS**
    Guyana *19-0-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *25-1-1* (WBC Champ)
2. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY *24-0* (IBF Champ)
3. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. *47-2* (WBA Champ)
4. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA *33-2*
5. **ENER JULIO**
   Colombia *21-3*
6. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL *21-1*
7. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO *22-2-1*
8. **MICKY WARD**
   Lowell, MA *35-10*
9. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *33-4*
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO JR**
    Puerto Rico *29-0*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
   Mexico *41-4-1* (WBC Champ)
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *30-2-1*
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA *31-0* (IBF Champ)
4. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico *38-3-1*
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *33-5-1*
6. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan *23-1-2* (WBA Champ)
7. **BEN TACKIE**
   Ghana *21-1*
8. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan *30-0*
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *51-6*
10. **COLIN DUNNE**
    England *31-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA *33-0*
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI *23-0* (WBC Champ)
3. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL *23-0* (WBA Champ)
4. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil *27-0*
5. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea *21-1-1*
6. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia *12-2-1*
7. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *32-1*
8. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *27-3-1*
9. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *40-7-1*
10. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
    Oxnard, CA *33-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *38-1*
2. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
   North Korea *22-2-1* (WBC Champ)
3. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *33-7-1* (WBA Champ)
4. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela *19-3-1* (IBF Champ)
5. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea *18-1*
6. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela *33-8-3*
7. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *41-3-2*
8. **HIDEKI TODAKA**
   Japan *17-3-1*
9. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *22-1-1*
10. **SAMSON TOYOTA-THAILAND**
    Thailand *37-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI *27-0* (WBA Champ)
2. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia *24-0* (IBF Champ)
3. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines *11-0-1* (WBC Champ)
4. **SORNPICHAI PISNURACHANK**
   Thailand *19-1*
5. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *37-2*
6. **MEDGOEN TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand *20-1*
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *38-1*
8. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *43-3*
9. **ISIDRO GARCIA**
   Los Angeles, CA *21-1-1*
10. **DAVID GUERAULT**
    France *17-0*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico *48-0-1* (IBF Champ)
2. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea *22-1* (WBC Champ)
3. **PICHIT C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *22-1*
4. **BEBIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia *27-0* (WBA Champ)
5. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua *26-2-1*
6. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *42-3-1*
7. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa *18-0*
8. **MELCHOR COB-CASTRO**
   Mexico *58-6-4*
9. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN *15-2-1*
10. **JORGE ARCE**
    Mexico *24-3-1*

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa *16-2-2* (IBF Champ)
2. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico *23-1-1* (WBC Champ)
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *41-1-1*
4. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *29-5-1* (WBA Champ)
5. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela *12-2-1*
6. **WANDEE SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand *25-4*
7. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *20-2-1*
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia *32-2*
9. **JOSE GARCIA**
   Colombia *22-5-1*
10. **DANIEL REYES**
    Colombia *24-0*

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April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray Is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior

Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now*? Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Oct. 1995 (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Nov. 1998: Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats. Plus: David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Cory Spinks, LeRoy Neiman, Don King, Hall of Fame.

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Scmheling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Oct. 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

Nov. 1999: Three Belts Aren't Enough! What The Fans Demand Of Roy Jones! Plus: Davey Hilton, Maurice Harris, Byron Mitchell, Ayala-Tapia, '99 Hall of Fame.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

Feb. 2000: Who Is Roy Jones? A Revealing Look At Boxing's Pound-For-Pound Best. Plus: Tyson-Norris, Matty McCue, tactical blunders, best fights of the '90s.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed *Ring* Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

Nov. 2000: Make The Tyson-Lewis Fight Now! Plus: Mosley-De La Hoya, Acelino Freitas, Pat Lawlor, Fred Norwood, Jeff Chandler, Vito Antuofermo.

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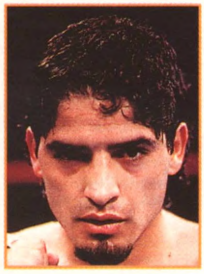
NEW FACES

A LOOK BACK

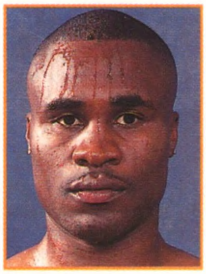
Compiled by Joe Santoliquito

What have our most recent "New Faces" been doing since being featured in THE RING? An update:



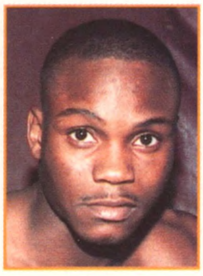
Julio Pablo Chacon, featherweight (January 1999 issue): Then-unbeaten Chacon received a shot at the WBA featherweight title against Freddie Norwood in May 2000 and lost a lopsided 12-round decision in his native Argentina. It got worse for Chacon in his next fight, when he unexpectedly dropped a 10-round decision to journeyman Claudio Martinet. Chacon seems to be one of those fighters who looks great against soft opposition, but doesn't know how to deal with adversity.

Record: 36-2 (26)



James Page, welterweight (February 1999 issue): Page is the only fighter among this group of "New Faces" to go on to win a world title. He's had three defenses of the WBA welter crown, including a classic clash with Jose Luis Lopez in December '98. Just before this issue went to press, however, Page, who had been inactive for over a year, was stripped of the title due to a number of postponements of his bout with mandatory challenger Andrew "Six Heads" Lewis.

Record: 25-3 (19)



Mike Covington, welterweight (March 1999 issue): Covington suffered a stunning third-round knockout loss to Andrew Murray on ESPN2 in November 1999, but has since signed with Duva Boxing and appears to be getting back on track. Covington's last fight was an eight-round victory over Agustin Silva in July 2000. He is hoping for the opportunity to avenge his loss to Murray.

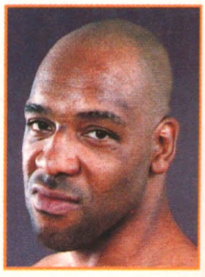
Record: 23-1 (14)

Richard Hall, light heavyweight (April 1999 issue): Hall made some fans in a courageous stand against undisputed light heavyweight champ Roy Jones in May 2000. The southpaw challenger stuck around for 11 rounds, despite nearly being kayoed by the explosive Jones in the first. Hall was being mentioned in possible fights with either David Telesco or Antonio Tarver as of press time.

Record: 24-2 (23)

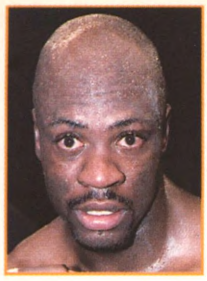
Lemuel Nelson, lightweight (June 1999 issue): Nelson, part of Roy Jones' "Pensacola Posse," received a chance to advance against Brazilian slugger Acelino Freitas on HBO's *KO Nation* in June 2000, but he crumbled in two rounds under Freitas' assault. He showed decent speed and power, flooring Freitas briefly in the first, but Nelson's defense and chin simply don't appear to be world class.

Record: 19-3 (10)



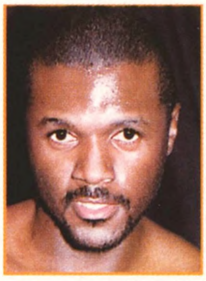
Mount Whitaker, heavyweight (July 1999 issue): Whitaker became a player in the heavyweight division when he edged out previously unbeaten Monte Barrett in August '99, but he then had to take 10 months off to heal from a knee injury. He got active again this past summer, stopping Thomas Williams in June and winning by first-round disqualification over David Dixon in July. He then scored the most impressive win of his career in October, when he stopped previously undefeated Robert Davis in just two rounds.

Record: 22-1 (18)



Derrick Jefferson, heavyweight (August 1999 issue): The exciting Jefferson made a major splash when he knocked out Maurice Harris in one of the most electrifying fights of 1999, but he has struggled since. He punched himself out and was TKO'd by David Izon in January 2000, then lost to Oleg Maskaev in May when he freakishly broke his left ankle in the first round. He fought with the injury for the next three rounds, but his reward for the valiant effort was wearing a cast for three months.

Record: 22-2-1 (18)

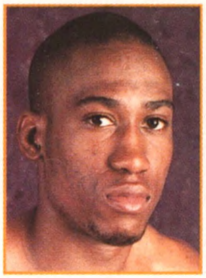


Stevie Forbes, junior lightweight (September 1999 issue): Forbes has shown nice progress, despite suffering a majority-decision loss to former world champ Alejandro Gonzalez in March. He rebounded with an impressive win over Moises Pedroza on ESPN2, followed by a victory over David Santos, which moved the slick but light-hitting Forbes up to the number-two ranking in the IBF. That means he'll be facing number-one rated John Brown for the recently vacated title.

Record: 18-1 (4)

Kofi Jantuah, welterweight (October 1999 issue): Jantuah was rolling along until his recent signing with Don King. After being locked in a contract dispute for most of 2000, the talented African finally returned from a seven-month layoff with a third-round knockout over Ojay Abrahams in October.

Record: 21-0 (11)

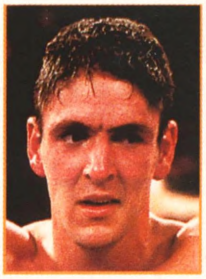


Jermaine Fields, lightweight (November 1999 issue): Since Fields appeared in THE RING, he's gone 4-0-1 (2), and he emerged as a contender with a unanimous 10-round decision over Julian Wheeler on ESPN2 in August 2000. Fields signed with Duva Boxing in March 2000, and his management team is hopeful that he'll be in line for a title shot in 2001.

Record: 21-0-1 (16)

Jason Pires, junior featherweight (December 1999 issue): Pires lost a deflating 10-round decision to veteran Arthur Johnson, who outslicked him every step of the way, in October 1999. Since then, Pires' career has been stagnant, bogged down by managerial problems. In the meantime, Pires recently graduated from UMass-Dartmouth with a bachelor's degree in sociology/criminal justice.

Record: 15-1 (7)



Anthony Farnell, junior middleweight (Holiday 1999 issue): Farnell has taken his loud following on a nice ride so far. Since appearing in THE RING, the slugger from Manchester, England, has gone 5-0 (4), including a 12-round decision win over one-time world title challenger Howard Clarke. He's at the point now where he should be done facing softies and ready to take on a legitimate contender within the next year.

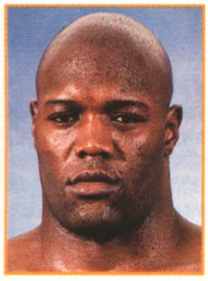
Record: 23-0 (16)

Teddy Reid, junior welterweight (January 2000 issue): Reid had a five-bout winning streak halted in July 2000 when he struggled to make the 140-pound limit while allowing opponent Golden Johnson to come in 10 pounds over the limit. The much fresher Johnson came on strong in the middle and late rounds to win a 12-round decision. Reid bounced back with a vicious second-round kayo over Juan Carlos Rubio on ESPN2 in October.

Record: 17-4-1 (12)

Fathi Missaoui, junior middleweight (February 2000 issue): Missaoui has gone 3-0 (2) since appearing in THE RING. His most recent victory was an eight-round unanimous decision over trial-horse Edward Hall in August 2000. As of press time, Missaoui was scheduled to fight Alex Hilton in November. Interbox, Missaoui's promotional company, is looking for a minor title fight sometime early next year.

Record: 10-0 (7)



Clifford Etienne, heavyweight (March 2000 issue): "The Black Rhino" has made major strides, getting excellent exposure with a pair of *KO Nation* appearances. Etienne won the debut fight on the new HBO show in thrilling fashion against previously unbeaten Lamon Brewster, then handed Cliff Couser a third-round knockout loss in September 2000. The two performances have earned Etienne a spot on the Lennox Lewis-David Tua undercard against fellow unbeaten Lawrence Clay-Bey.

Record: 18-0 (13) ■

CAMERA CLICKS

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Walking and chewing bubble gum at the same time is one thing, but fighting former light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill while talking on the cell phone is a serious test of veteran heavyweight Ray Mercer's multi-tasking skills. Perhaps Mercer is calling up Don King to find out whether he's scheduled to fight at any point during this millennium.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

It's a shame featherweight contender Juan Carlos "Ranchero" Ramires isn't part of Cedric Kushner's Thunderbox tournament, because his flashy ringwear would definitely earn him extra style points. His fancy outfit did him little good in his last fight, however, as Ramires was upset by Agapito Sanchez in August, dashing his title hopes for the time being.

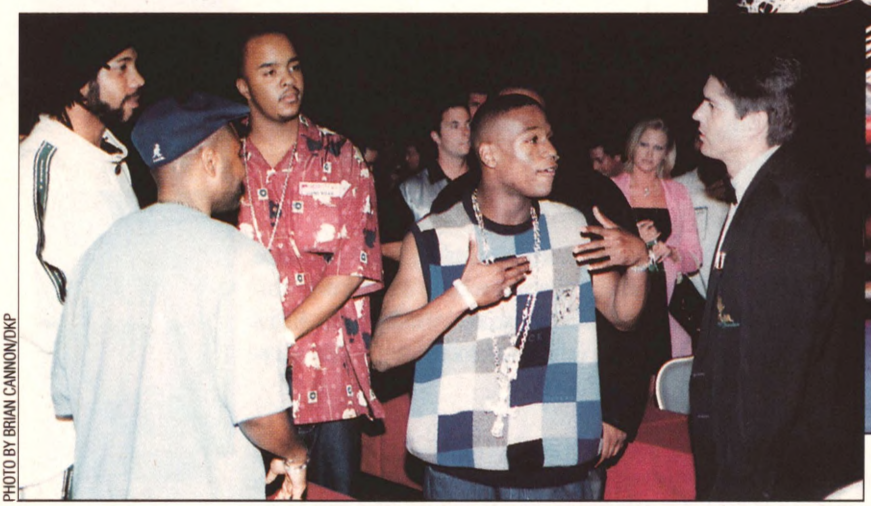


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

"I will not accept this slave seating!" WBC 130-pound champion Floyd Mayweather, sporting more jewelry around his neck than Mr. T at a Mardi Gras celebration, appears to be having an altercation with a worker at the MGM Grand during Don King's September 16 show. No truth to the rumor that manager James Prince (in the blue cap, with his back to the camera) intervened and negotiated to get Mayweather much crappier seats for the same price.

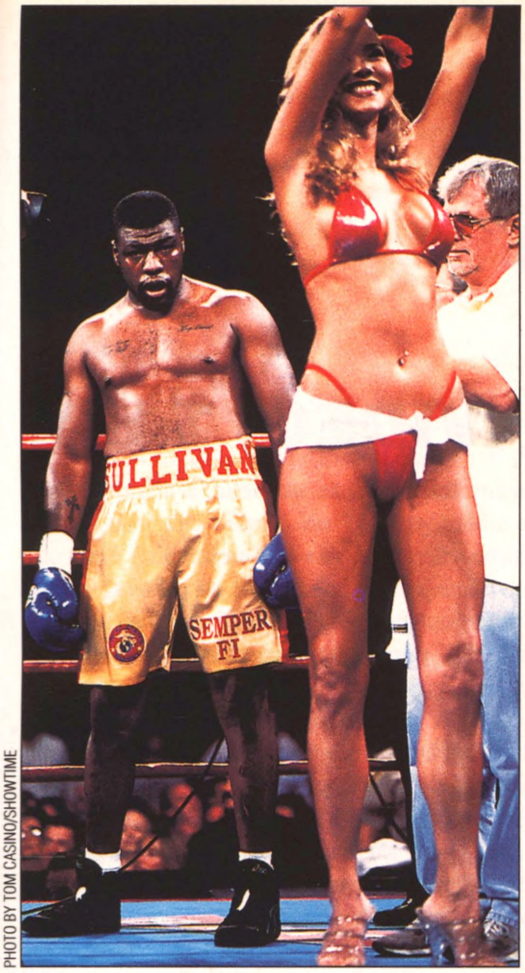


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

A study in contrasts: Obed Sullivan, who picked up an easy payday collapsing in less than a minute against David Tua in June, ogles a round-card girl, who insisted on earning her paycheck despite the fact that there was no upcoming second round to announce.

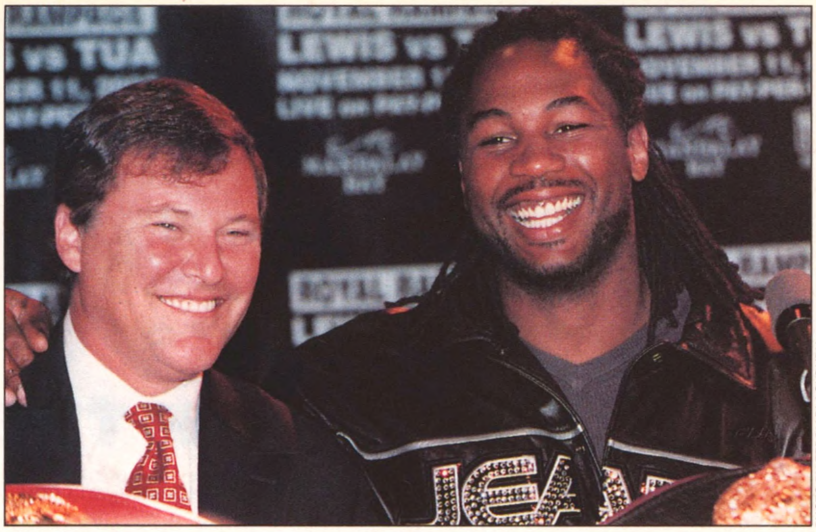


PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

"Show me the money!" Heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis introduces the boxing world to Leigh Steinberg, the NFL super agent who is now working with the hard-hitting Brit.

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

What's wrong with this picture? On the walls of JFK High School in Paterson, New Jersey, juxtaposed right alongside a poster explaining "the value of education," we see a sign advertising boxing tickets for sale, and the word "fight" is misspelled. We hope whoever's promoting the show doesn't have to spell out Sornpichai Pisnurachank's name on the fight poster.

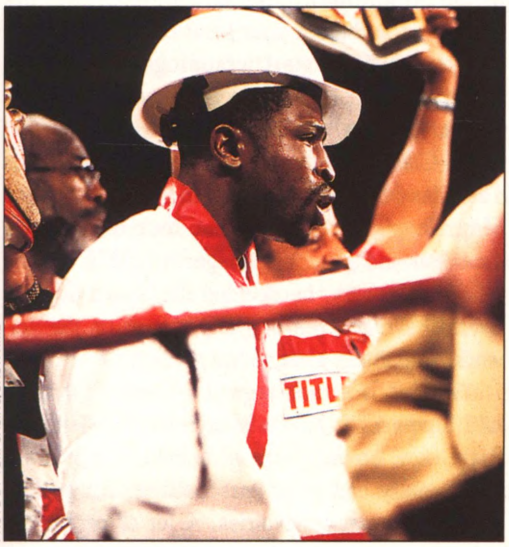
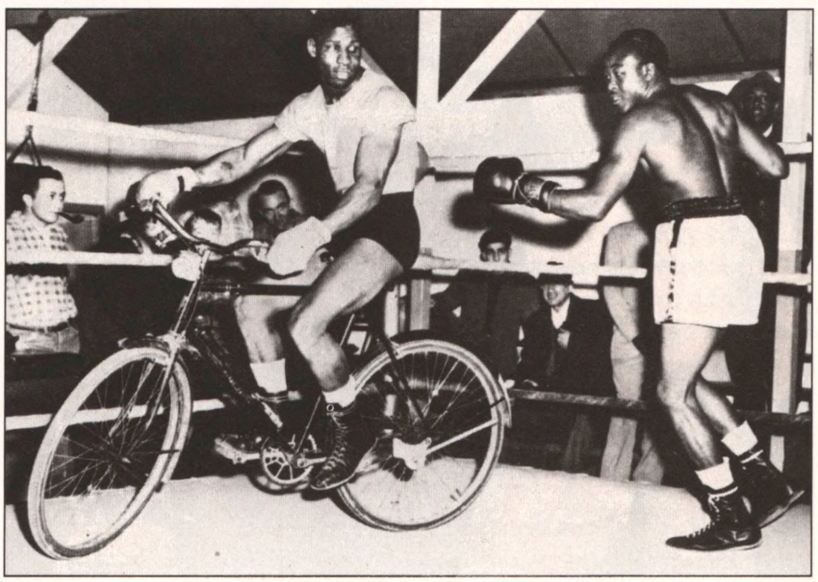


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Radford Beasley had a definite plan going into his title challenge against WBA 130-pound champ Joel Casamayor, but he had to scrap that plan when the ref told him he wasn't allowed to fight with his hard hat on. Beasley may have experience in construction, but Casamayor is more skilled in the art of destruction, and he hammered and nailed Beasley until the fight was stopped just 52 seconds into the fifth.

NOSTALGIA CORNER



This sparring partner of Kid Gavilan's appears to have taken the instruction to get on his bicycle a bit too literally. This publicity shot was taken about a week before Gavilan's 1953 welterweight title defense against Chuck Davey, who didn't get on his bike enough and was stopped in 10 one-sided rounds by the Cuban great.

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

TALE OF THE (VIDEO) TAPE

The addict's wake-up call can come in many forms. For an alcoholic, it might be when he's out of booze, the liquor stores are closed, and he finds himself chugging a bottle of mouthwash. For a cokehead, it could be when he's crawling on the dirty floor of a men's room in a desperate search for the tiny vial he just dropped in the stall. For me, a guy hopelessly hooked on ESPN Classic, the humbling moment came on a recent Sunday afternoon, when I realized I'd just flipped past two NFL games that were airing live in order to watch gridiron highlights of yesteryear.

Out with the new and in with the old.

A live boxing telecast hasn't yet gotten that kind of bum's rush from me, but the day is surely coming. You can bet on it. At some point in time, Roy Jones is going to be toying with a huge underdog or Prince Naseem Hamed is going to be doing more shimmying than scoring and—*zap!*—the superstar commanding my attention is suddenly going to be Rocky Marciano or Muhammad Ali, the blow-by-blow voice filling the air will belong to Don Dunphy or Bob Sheridan, and I'll be glued to the television set for the rest of the night.

You can relive Arguello-Olivares on ESPN Classic

If you're a fight fan and your home isn't one of the 30 million receiving ESPN Classic, it's time to either harass your local cable provider or tell your wife to start wrapping the dishes in newspaper in preparation for your move elsewhere. Boxing has been an important part of ESPN Classic ever since the cable outlet began as The Classic Sports Network in 1996. But when Mark Shapiro, a real fight nut, took over as vice president and general manager of ESPN Classic this past January, he decided the Sweet Science should have an even bigger presence on the network. And that's what he has given it.

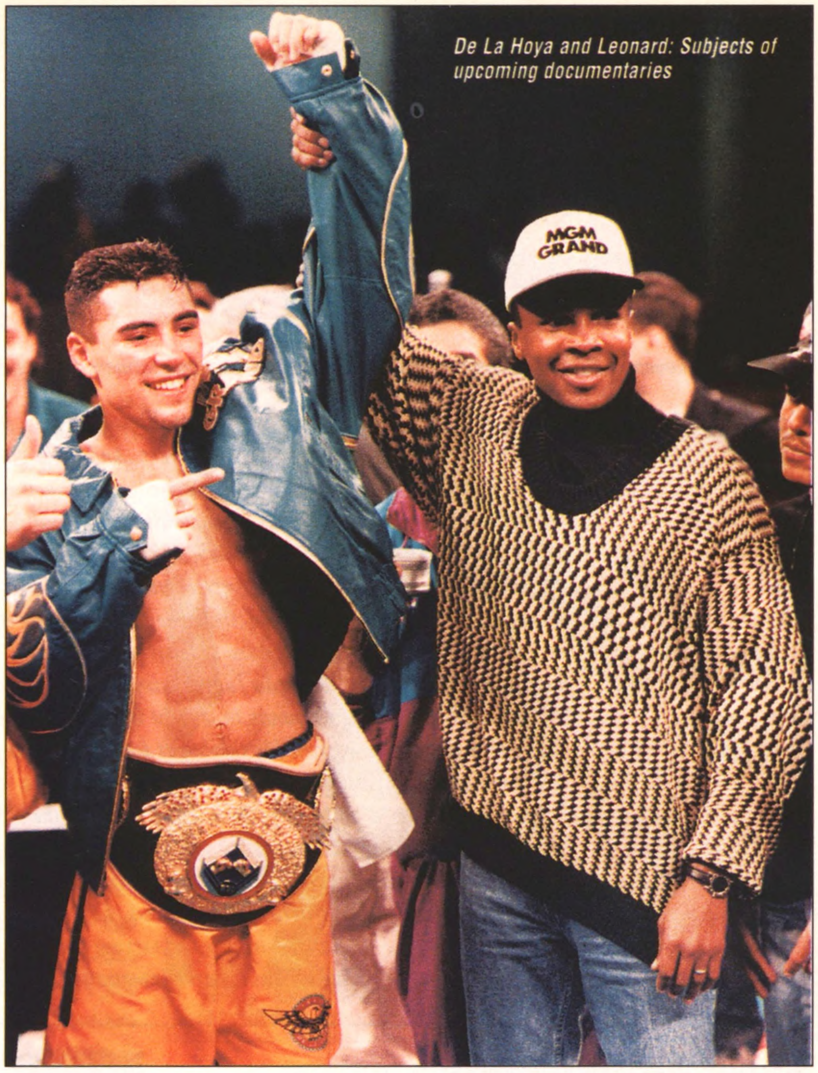
"Boxing is a such a good metaphor for life," said Shapiro. "It has so many visceral elements. Right now, boxing lacks personalities, but it has traditionally had great personalities, compelling stories, and classic rivalries. A lot of people are more attracted to the history of boxing than to the game today."

Sometimes, that cherished history is what keeps us from giving up on the sport when things go badly. Think about it. We still respect the heavyweight title, no matter how cheapened and devalued it may be, because its lineage demands

that we respect it. In spite of Mike Tyson's idiotic behavior, a part of us still appreciates him because he's the guy who wears no robe, once had a Jack Dempsey haircut, and has imitated the legends in everything from his fighting style to his poses. Certain divisions—like lightweight, welterweight, and middleweight—will always have cachet, even in their down times, because so many Hall of Famers punched a clock there.

What's best about ESPN Classic's blasts from the past is that they come in all shapes and sizes. One day it's a black-and-white film of the first Cassius Clay-Sonny Liston clash, and the next it's Rocky Graziano and Tony Zale sitting down with Curt Gowdy on *The Way It Was* to discuss their explosive rivalry. Or it's a compilation of George Foreman's best knockouts. Or an installment of Marciano's short-lived talk show, the one that proved he was no Jack Paar. Or Ali, Archie Moore, and Ken Norton serving as panelists on the '70s game show, *The Sports Challenge*.

One of ESPN Classic's regular programs, a look back at great moments from ABC'S *Wide World Of Sports*, recently focused entirely on the on-air interaction between Ali and Howard Cosell. It included everything from Cosell's prediction of Ali's demise against Foreman to that unforgettable footage of Ali and Joe Frazier wrestling on the ABC studio floor after their 1974 interview with the toupeed one turned nasty.



De La Hoya and Leonard: Subjects of upcoming documentaries

"Just look at many of these fighters and you can see how American culture has evolved," said Shapiro.

You know the folks at ESPN Classic do their homework because Alexis Arguello's knockout of WBA featherweight king Ruben Olivares at The "Fabulous" Forum, not exactly a sports moment burned into the memory of the mainstream, was shown in its entirety last year on the 25th anniversary of the bout. (Geez, *Arguello* probably didn't even realize it was the anniversary.) If there's a fight you've read about but have never seen in its entirety, there's a good chance it could end up on ESPN Classic. Ali-Zora Folley. Ali-Oscar Bonavena. Ali-Jerry Quarry II. Ali-Chuck Wepner. Quarry-Earnie Shavers. Foreman-Frazier II. Foreman-Gregorio Peralta I. Foreman-George Chuvalo. Roberto Duran-Ken Buchanan. Emile Griffith-Nino Benvenuti II. Matt Franklin-Marvin Johnson I and II. It's the kind of stuff you won't find in the sports section at Blockbuster or West Coast Video.

When you do see something you've seen before, it's often repackaged and shown in a different light. September featured new hour-long biographies of Ali, Moore, Graziano, Marciano, and Joe Louis on five consecutive nights. And a 25th anniversary replay of "The Thrilla In Manila" on October 1 was accompanied by a previously unaired documentary.

"Our overall philosophy is that we want to be habitually thought of as the network that programs spectacles on the date they occurred," said Shapiro. "The true fight fan will realize that we're doing things like that and appreciate it, but we're hoping they also pass the word on to their friends. We want people to know that we're not just a tape network. Fifty-percent of our programming is original. Along with a lot of the old fight films, we provide context and fresh analysis and insight."

And during the next year, ESPN Classic promises to provide lots more good, old-fashioned fun for you connoisseurs of clout. It has purchased the archives of the CBS anthology series, *Sports Spectacular*, and by the end of the year was expected to begin showing some of the boxing that aired on *Sports Spectacular* in the '70s. And hour-long documentaries of Sugar Ray Leonard and Oscar De La Hoya are scheduled for 2001.

"People often know a name, but they don't know the whole story connected to it," said Shapiro. "That's why we're looking to do more on contemporary fighters. There are some great stories to tell."

It's been said that only a stupid man fails to learn from the past. Well, one thing this ESPN Classic viewer has learned from boxing's past is that it sure beats its present and future. Now, if you'll excuse me, it's time to break out the Ballantine and get ready for the main event. Liston-Patterson, from Comiskey Park. Betcha 10 bucks it doesn't last a round. ■

NO GOLDEN BOYS

U.S. Team Shut Out At Olympics For First Time In 52 Years

Compiled by D.E. Thomas

For others, the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia, may have been the Olympics. But for the United States boxing team, it was the No-lympics, at least as far as gold was concerned.

After winning just one gold medal in each of the past two Olympiads, the United States entered the 2000 Games with high hopes. Coming off of an impressive performance at the 1998 World Championships, which saw America walk away with three world titles, the U.S. program seemed poised for a turnaround and a run at Cuba's long-standing claim to world dominance.

But it didn't turn out that way. Some Americans underachieved. Some simply ran into better fighters. And, in a continuing trend in Olympic boxing, some were shafted. The United States' medal haul for the competition was just two silver medals and two bronzes, marking the first time since 1948 that the U.S. boxing squad didn't capture at least one gold.

Ricardo Juarez won the silver medal at 125 pounds in a fight in which the referee warned his opponent for holding no fewer than nine times without taking a single point. A protest was filed, and the Russian referee was banned from international competition for four years, but the result was allowed to stand. Light flyweight Brian Viloria lost a narrow decision in the quarterfinals, and international officials later admitted that after reviewing the tapes, his bodypunches were not counted as they should have been. Needless to say, the verdict was not overturned.

Juarez was joined on the medal stand by fellow silver medalist Ricardo Williams at 139 pounds and bronze winners Jermain Taylor at 156 pounds and Clarence Vinson at 119 pounds. But by any measure, the 2000 U.S. team was a disappointment. The Summer Games in Sydney only underscored the belief that America's amateur program is falling farther and farther behind the rest of the world, a trend that shows no sign of reversing itself in the coming years.

Here is a fighter-by-fighter summary of the U.S. squad's efforts:

Super Heavyweight:
CALVIN BROCK

Paolo Vidoz (Italy).....TKO by 4 (21-6)

It all starts at the top, and Brock, who was reluctant to follow the U.S.'s rigid training program, was just the latest big man to flop while representing the red, white, and blue in the Olympics ... Coupled with Lawrence Clay-Bey's first-round loss to Wladimir Klitschko in Atlanta in '96, the U.S. hasn't won a super heavyweight bout in Olympic competition since Larry Donald won his first-round match in Barcelona ... Vidoz, who won a bronze medal, is no Klitschko ... The tubby Italian outclassed Brock from the start, although Brock was behind just 6-3 after two rounds before taking an eight-count and losing the third round 7-0 ... The bout was stopped in the fourth on a new rule that ends a fight when a contestant falls behind by 15 points ... The native of Charlotte, North Carolina, plans to turn professional, but don't expect to see him climb to the top of the rankings.

Gold Medal Winner: Audley Harrison (England)

Heavyweight:
MICHAEL BENNETT

Wojciech Bartnik (Poland) .....W 4 (11-2)
Felix Savon (Cuba) .....TKO by 3 (23-8)

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Bennett (left) couldn't get past Cuban Savon

Bennett breezed through the first round after a visit from Evander Holyfield in the locker room before the fight, shutting out his overmatched opponent until the final seconds of the last round ... The victory earned him a long-awaited match with Savon, who was gunning for his third Olympic gold medal ... Bennett had won the '99 World Championship when Savon forfeited in a team protest over a decision that had gone against another Cuban ... Bennett, who learned to box in prison, quickly found out that he did not have the artillery to compete with the tall, smooth Cuban ... Savon landed at will with his right hand as Bennett tried to work his way inside ... Bennett's best moment came just before the stoppage, when he seemed to shake up Savon with a combination ... The native of Chicago has the potential for a bright future in the pro ranks, but will need some polishing and, at age 29, doesn't have time to waste.

Gold Medal Winner: Felix Savon (Cuba)

Light Heavyweight:
OLANDA ANDERSON

Rudolf Kraj (Czech Republic).....L 4 (13-12)

Anderson was the hard-luck story of the U.S. team, drawing a first-round bye and then losing a heartbreaking decision to the eventual silver medalist in his only Olympic appearance ... The fight was tied at 7-7 going into the final round, and both men increased the pace in an effort to advance ... "I was ready, I just wasn't able to get off like I wanted," Anderson said. "I started too slow" ... A huge specimen in the 178-pound division, Anderson is a methodical boxer-puncher who often wears down his opponents over the course of the fight ... A career soldier, the native of South Carolina who is based at Fort Carson, Colorado, will have to finish his stint in the Army before considering a professional career ... Whether or not he will enter the pro ranks is in doubt.

Gold Medal Winner: Alexander Lebziak (Russia)

Middleweight:
JEFF LACY

Cleiton Conceicao (Brazil).....TKO 3 (17-2)
Pawel Kakietek (Poland).....W 4 (21-7)
Gaidarbek Gaidarbekov (Russia) ....TKO by 3 (18-3)

Considered by many to be one of the lesser lights on the U.S. team, the boxer-puncher from St. Petersburg, Florida, had a nice run before coming up against a difficult opponent ... Nicknamed "Left Hook," Lacy found his right hand to be his best weapon in Sydney ... In his first bout, he scored two standing eight-counts with rights before pulling away on points for the stoppage ... He was tied early with Poland's Kakietek before scoring with five consecutive rights at the end of the first round ... Scored another eight-count in that bout and narrowly missed a points stoppage ... Never came close to figuring out Russia's tall, lanky Gaidarbekov, who used a long, pawing jab to set up a quick, stinging right that scored repeatedly as Lacy plodded in ... Lacy fell behind 5-0 in the first round and was never in the fight ... Lacy showed good power and bodypunching at the Olympics and probably raised his stock as a professional, although falling short of the medal round by one fight will cost him considerably in striking a deal.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Gaidarbekov's arm is raised after stopping Lacy

Gold Medal Winner: Jorge Gutierrez (Cuba)

Light Middleweight
JERMAIN TAYLOR

Dimitriy Usagin (Bulgaria) .....KO 1
Scott MacIntosh (Canada) .....W 4 (23-9)
Adnan Catic (Germany) .....W 4 (19-14)
Yermakhan Ibraimov (Kazakhstan)....TKO by 4 (29-14)

Even though he fell one win short of fighting for the gold, Taylor emerged as a potential star and delivered the singlemost devastating punch of the entire competition in his first-round fight ... Late in the first round, he nailed Usagin with a perfect right hand that left his foe out cold as he collapsed to the canvas ... That punch made an impression on MacIntosh, who circled around the ring trying to avoid any kind of exchange with the hard hitter from Little Rock, Arkansas ... Taylor methodically outboxed Germany's Catic before running into '96 bronze medalist Ibraimov ... The southpaw's style gave Taylor fits as he fell behind early and never got into a rhythm ... Taylor wasn't well-

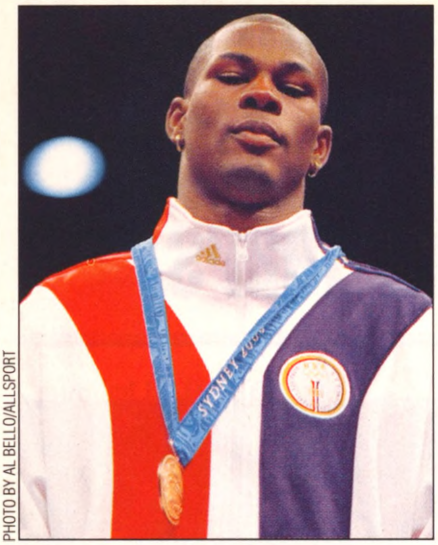


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

America's Taylor had to settle for a bronze

known before the Summer Games, but found promoters and managers flocking to his side in an effort to sign the best pure puncher on the U.S. team … He needs to smooth out the rough edges, but the personable Taylor is the kind of puncher who figures to create some excitement in the pro ranks.

Gold Medal Winner: Yermakhan Ibraimov (Kazakhstan)

Welterweight:
DANTE CRAIG

Fadel Showban (Egypt) .....TKO 4 (17-2)
Bulent Ulusoy (Turkey) .....L 4 (9-4)

Craig entered the Olympic Games with virtually no international experience, missing out on preparatory matches to have surgery to repair a broken right hand after the Olympic Trials … He also missed a lot of sparring going into the competition as the hand healed, although it didn't affect his first-round performance … The Cincinnati product used the right to good effect in scoring an eight-count against his Egyptian opponent and cruising to an easy win … His fight with Ulusoy was close until he was knocked down at the end of the second round … Craig boxed cautiously over the last two rounds and scored just one more point, resulting in the U.S.'s first loss of the competition … The loss and Craig's reaction to the knockdown don't bode well for his professional future … He also reinjured the right hand in his last bout, which will delay his debut for an undetermined amount of time.

Gold Medal Winner: Oleg Saitov (Russia)

Light Welterweight:
RICARDO WILLIAMS JR.

Henry Collins (Australia).....TKO 4 (20-5)
Olusegun Ajose (Nigeria).....TKO 4 (21-6)
Alexandre Leonov (Russia).....W 4 (17-12)
Diogenes Luna Martinez (Cuba) .....W 4 (42-41)
Mahamadkadyz Abdullaev (Uzbekistan) ....L 4 (27-20)

Williams, who lost to Abdullaev in an early-round match at the World Championships and suffered another defeat just prior to the Olympics, emerged as one of the two best pro prospects on the U.S. team with his silver medal run … Williams' fast hands, quick feet, and combination punching were way too much for his first two opponents … He beat a solid opponent from Russia to get to the medal round, then won the best fight of the competition in his showdown with Cuba's Martinez … In a display of non-stop punching by both fighters, Williams scored the punch that put him in the winner's circle with just 20 seconds left in a give-and-take war … The high scoring of the fight gives a hint of the pace, but both fighters actually landed well over 100 blows in the four rounds … Abdullaev proved to be too strong for Williams, who couldn't hold him off with his quick combinations … Williams fell behind early, and his late rally wasn't enough … Pro scouts rave over Williams' speed and athleticism, and give him high marks for the future.

Gold Medal Winner: Mahamadkadyz Abdullaev (Uzbekistan)

Lightweight:
DAVID JACKSON

Naoufel Ben Rabah (Tunisia) .....W 4 (19-7)

Jackson was the only American to return from the Olympics unbeaten, but he doesn't have much to boast about … The Seattle product breezed through his first fight, but failed to make weight for a second-round match with Selim Palyani of Turkey, losing by walkover … Jackson quit boxing two years ago and ballooned up to 184 pounds before deciding to make a run at the 2000 Olympics … He qualified for the Olympic Trials at 139 pounds, but decided to drop to 132, where he finished second in the Box-offs to Marshall Martinez … When Martinez dropped off the team for personal reasons, Jackson stepped into his slot and promptly made the least of his opportunity … One thing's for sure: He will be fighting somewhere north of 132 pounds as a professional.

Gold Medal Winner: Mario Kindelan (Cuba)

Featherweight:
RICARDO JUAREZ

Bijan Batmani (Iran) .....TKO 3 (15-0)
Falk Huste (Germany) .....W 4 (17-15)
Somluck Kamsing (Thailand) .....TKO 4 (31-16)
Kamil Dzamalutdinov (Russia) .....W 4 (23-12)
Bekzat Sattarkhanov (Kazakhstan) .....L 4 (22-14)

The reigning 125-pound world champion had the most impressive run of any American, fighting his way through a tough draw only to be frustrated at the end by an opponent who turned their gold medal match into more of a grappling affair … After pitching a shutout in his opening match, the bodypunching dynamo from Houston drew

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Williams (right) loses to Abdullaev in championship match

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Sattarkhanov (left) beat Juarez, but needed the ref's help

Germany's Huste, whom he had beaten in the finals at the World Championships … The pair traded with vigor throughout, with Juarez' clean hooks to the body making the difference in a very close match … Next up, Juarez unseated 1996 gold medalist Kamsing from Thailand, taking a narrow 8-7 lead into the third round before scoring a standing eight-count and running away with the match … After handling the Russian with relative ease for his 68th consecutive victory, Juarez ran into a different sort of opponent in the final … Sattarkhanov tried to keep Juarez from gaining any momentum by charging in, throwing a couple of punches, and tying up the Texan before he could retaliate … With the aid of Russian referee Stanislav Kirsanov's disregard for amateur boxing's strict no-holding rule, Sattarkhanov built a lead in the first two rounds and literally held on until the final bell … Not bringing home a gold medal will diminish Juarez's signing bonus, but he looks like a sure thing in the pro ranks with his blend of bodypunching, power, and subtle defense.

Gold Medal Winner: Bekzat Sattarkhanov (Kazakhstan)

Bantamweight:
CLARENCE VINSON

Rachid Boudita (France).....W 4 (9-2)
Taalaibek Kadiraliev (Kyrgyzstan) .....W 4 (12-7)
Olteanu George-Crinu (Romania).....W 4 (26-19)
Guillermo Rigondeaux Ortiz (Cuba) .....L 4 (9-2)

Vinson brought home a bronze after a nice run through some pretty tough competition … He trailed at the end of the first round of his opening match, but pulled away to give the U.S. its first victory of the competition … His win over Kadiraliev was an ugly affair, with Vinson losing two points for pushing and his opponent losing two points for holding … Vinson then took on reigning world champion George-Crinu and delivered a sterling performance, closing strong after taking a two-point lead into the final round … In the semifinals, he ran into one of the best fighters in the 2000 Olympics, Cuba's Ortiz, who was simply too much for the pure boxer from Washington, D.C. … Three-time national champion Vinson has solid amateur credentials and great skill, but will have a limited future in the pros unless he can add some pop to his punch.

Gold Medal Winner: Guillermo Rigondeaux Ortiz (Cuba)

Flyweight:
JOSE NAVARRO

Hermensen Ballo (Indonesia) .....W 4 (15-10)
Hicham Mesbahi (Morocco) .....W 4 (12-9)
Jerome Thomas (France) .....L 4 (23-12)

The Los Angeles product had plenty of incentive to do his family proud, with his brother Carlos, a top professional junior featherweight prospect who lost to Floyd Mayweather in the 1996 Olympic Trials, making the trip to cheer him on … Navarro pulled out two relatively close wins before running into an opponent whom he could not catch after giving up the early lead … Navarro's first fight was tied 5-5 after two rounds before he took a commanding lead in the third … He trailed going into the final round of his second match before making another rally … He was behind by just two points going into the final round of his match with Thomas, but was completely outfought by the eventual bronze medal winner … Losing to Thomas is no disgrace, but Navarro's struggles with two lesser opponents raise some questions about how far he can advance in the professional ranks.

Gold Medal Winner: Wijan Ponlid (Thailand)

Light Flyweight:
BRIAN VILORIA

Serguei Kazakov (Russia).....W 4 (8-6)
Brahim Asloum (France) .....L 4 (6-4)

The reigning 106-pound world champion's Olympic experience was a major disappointment, starting with an incredibly tough draw from the start … Viloria had defeated Kazakov 11-10 in 1998 and needed a tie-breaker to beat Asloum in the '99 World Championships … Viloria was ahead 3-0 after the first round of his first fight, but could never pull away in a hard-fought contest … Eventual gold medalist Asloum landed three uppercuts late in the final round to escape with a narrow win … The Hawaiian's bodypunches were ignored by the judges, much to the chagrin of America's coaches … "Well, I guess that I am kind of in shock," was all Viloria could say after the decision … Viloria, who has an impressive international resume, should have a fine future as a professional despite leaving Sydney without a medal.

Gold Medal Winner: Brahim Asloum (France) ■

PHOTO BY MIKE HEWITT/ALLSPORT

Vinson beats Boudita en route to bronze

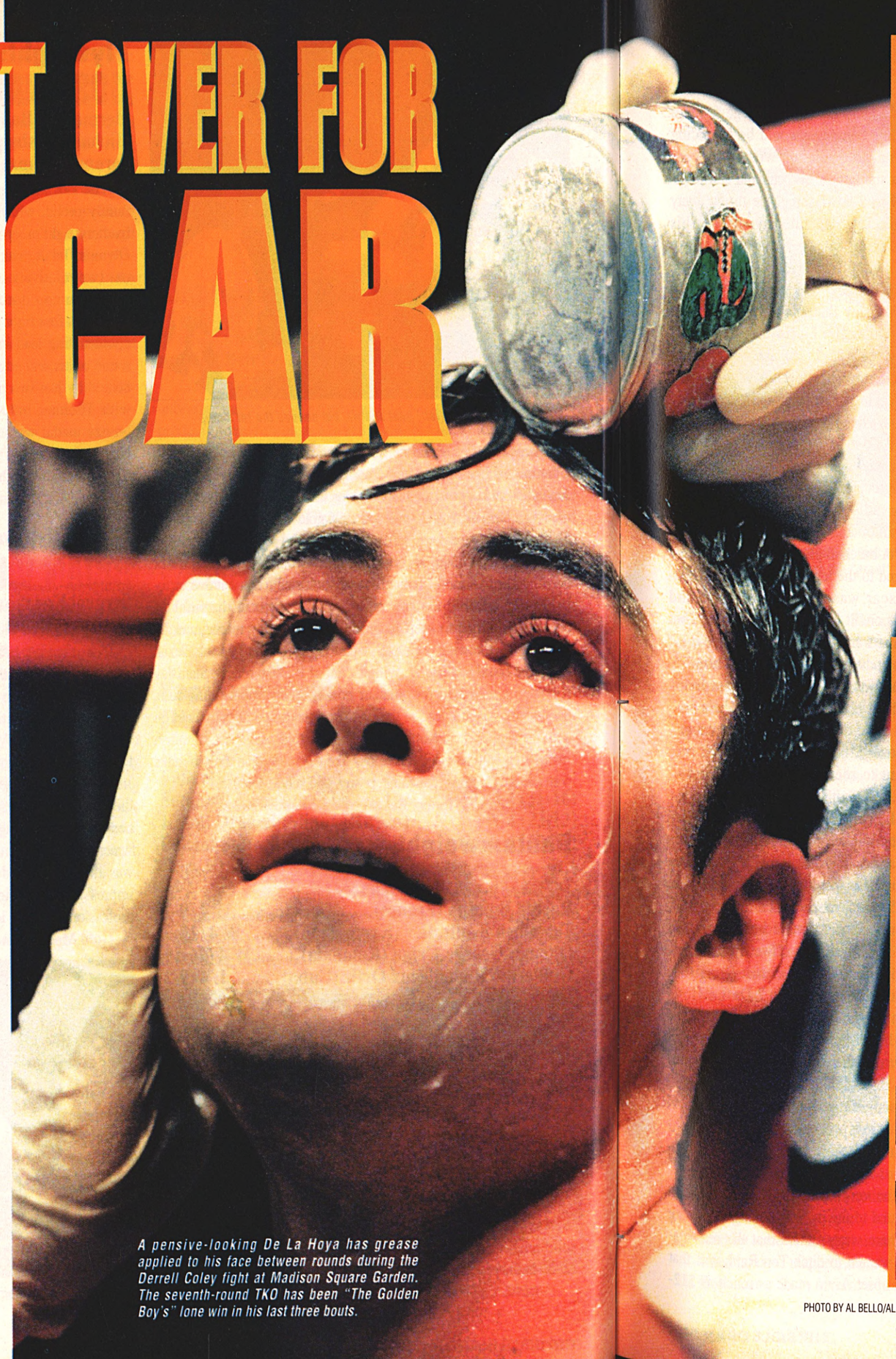
IT'S NOT OVER FOR OSCAR

The Ring's Five-Step Recovery Plan

By Jeff Ryan

The next time you're in Canastota during Hall of Fame Weekend, and you hear one of the warriors of yesteryear talking about how tough things were in *his* day, find a polite way of telling the old goat to stick it in his cauliflower ear. Granted, the guys in those black-and-white films had to contend with second-hand smoke in the arenas and first-hand shakedowns in the negotiating rooms, not to mention longer world title fights for smaller purses. But they never dealt with ESPN, 50,000-watt all-sports radio stations, boxing Web sites, and the second-guesser's favorite tool, CompuBox.

Given the choice, most fighters would probably take Frankie Carbo threatening to break their legs over Dan Patrick mock-



A pensive-looking De La Hoya has grease applied to his face between rounds during the Derrell Coley fight at Madison Square Garden. The seventh-round TKO has been "The Golden Boy's" lone win in his last three bouts.

Decision defeats at the hands of Shane Mosley (above) and Felix Trinidad (below) have depreciated De La Hoya's pound-for-pound status and jeopardized his future as a pay-per-view superstar.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS FARINA

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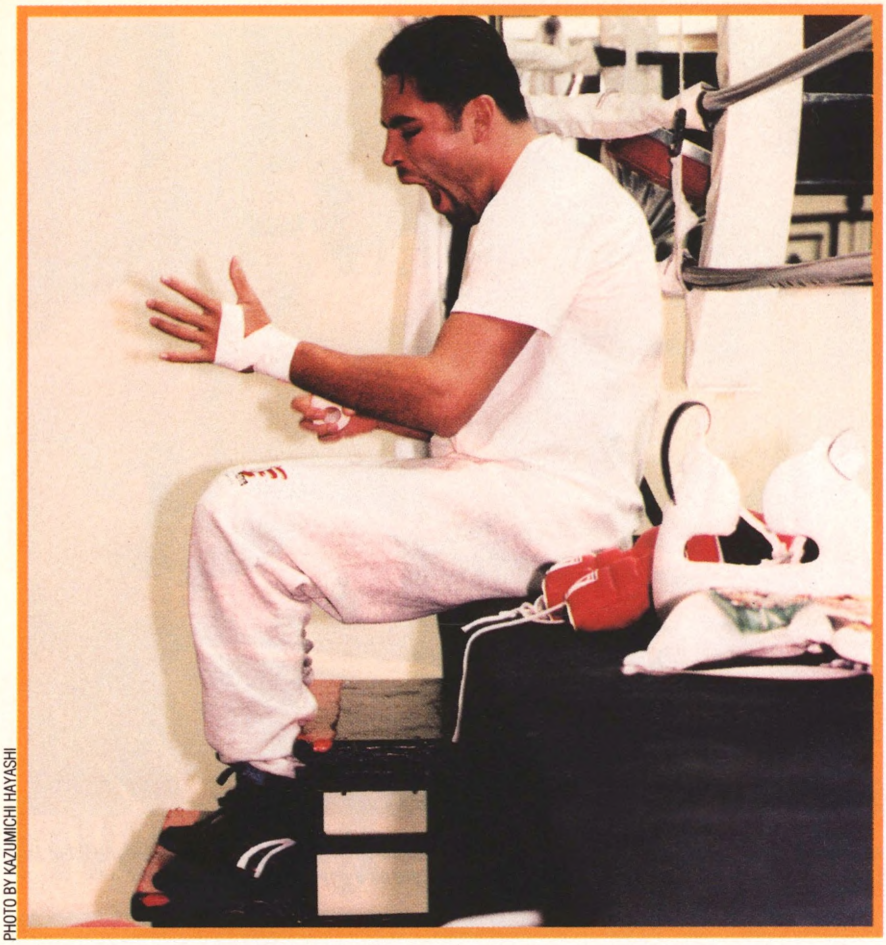


PHOTO BY KAZUMICHI HAYASHI

Is De La Hoya bored with boxing? Some believe his music career and other outside interests have been detrimental to his development, but Oscar says he's as committed to boxing as he's ever been.

ing them for the amusement of his *SportsCenter* audience. What's worse, some 1940s cornerman slicing your swollen eyelid with a razor blade, or some *Sports Illustrated* scribe cutting you up in front of three-million subscribers? Give me tar and nicotine at the St. Nicholas Arena over a tar-and-feathering from some boxing "expert" at lowblow.com any day.

Which brings us to Oscar De La Hoya. You remember him, don't you? He's the East L.A. kid who mined gold in Barcelona, won three world titles as a pro, got the press all lathered up about his prospects for greatness, and got himself all lathered up on those shaving cream billboards. Yeah, *that* De La Hoya, the kid who was supposed to be the '90s' answer to Sugar Ray Leonard in terms of title belts collected, products hawked, and number of immortals' shoulders rubbed against.

Well, lo and behold, "The Golden Boy" is looking pretty tarnished these days. Talk about an unforgiving sport. You get jobbed by the judges in one bout, then lose another one by split decision, and suddenly none of the fight game's must-see matchups include your name. Once-loyal Mexican-American fans are deserting you. On top of that, your promoter is saying it would be great if you recorded Latin music, and not TKOs, from now on. And others are wondering if this just might be the time to fulfill that other dream you once had, that of being an architect.

Geez, get outpointed twice and they want to turn you into the dad from *The Brady Bunch*.

Had De La Hoya been outdueled by Shane Mosley in the Polo Grounds with Don Dunphy calling the action for the Dumont network, Jimmy Cannon would be writing about how well De La Hoya battled and how much better a fighter he'll be because of it. But this is the era of pay-per-view, when blemishes on the resume stand out like surgical scars on a swimsuit model and two setbacks in a three-bout span are considered proof positive of burnout, indifference, or some other career-threatening malady.

If De La Hoya's recent ring performances were twisting dives off the springboard, we'd be taking into account the degree of difficulty and giving him high scores. If his fights were college football games, the computer would be balancing his recent disappointing won-lost record with the strength of his schedule and inviting him to a bowl game. He threw away the Felix Trinidad fight by shifting his transmission into reverse in the late rounds, but still deserved to win. And he would have beaten any other welterweight except Mosley that June night in L.A.'s Staples Center. De La Hoya is still just 27 years old, he's 32-2 (26), and he has never taken a serious beating. So why have so many people soured on him?

Blame a lot of it on the newspaper, magazine, and TV hype that's been as much a part of his career as left hooks to the body and teenage groupies in the hotel lobby.

"We call everyone 'great' too fast," said trainer and ESPN2 analyst Teddy Atlas. "A baseball player hits .300 and he's compared to the legends. Same with fighters. Oscar was always real good and deserves credit for fighting everybody, but the media wanted to have an all-time great in their midst so they exaggerated how talented he was. Now, when he's not living up to those claims of greatness, he's considered a big disappointment. When a guy makes over $100-million is his career, people want to see him justify that kind of money."

De La Hoya is also responsible for his declining public appeal. With his singing career and acting ambitions, he has given the impression that he's not fully dedicated to the Sweet Science. When his promoter, Top Rank's Bob Arum, recently suggested that De La Hoya retire, however, the fighter responded with a lawsuit—one that Arum called "despicable." De La Hoya doesn't seek monetary damages, just the end of his contract with Top Rank, which has three years remaining. In a statement, De La Hoya said, "I was very surprised and disappointed by Bob's recent comments to the press stating that I should retire from boxing. I am as committed to boxing as I ever have been."

At the very least, De La Hoya is still committed to the income boxing can bring him. There were rumors that the real reason he wanted to ditch Top Rank was that he was upset Arum made as much as $12-

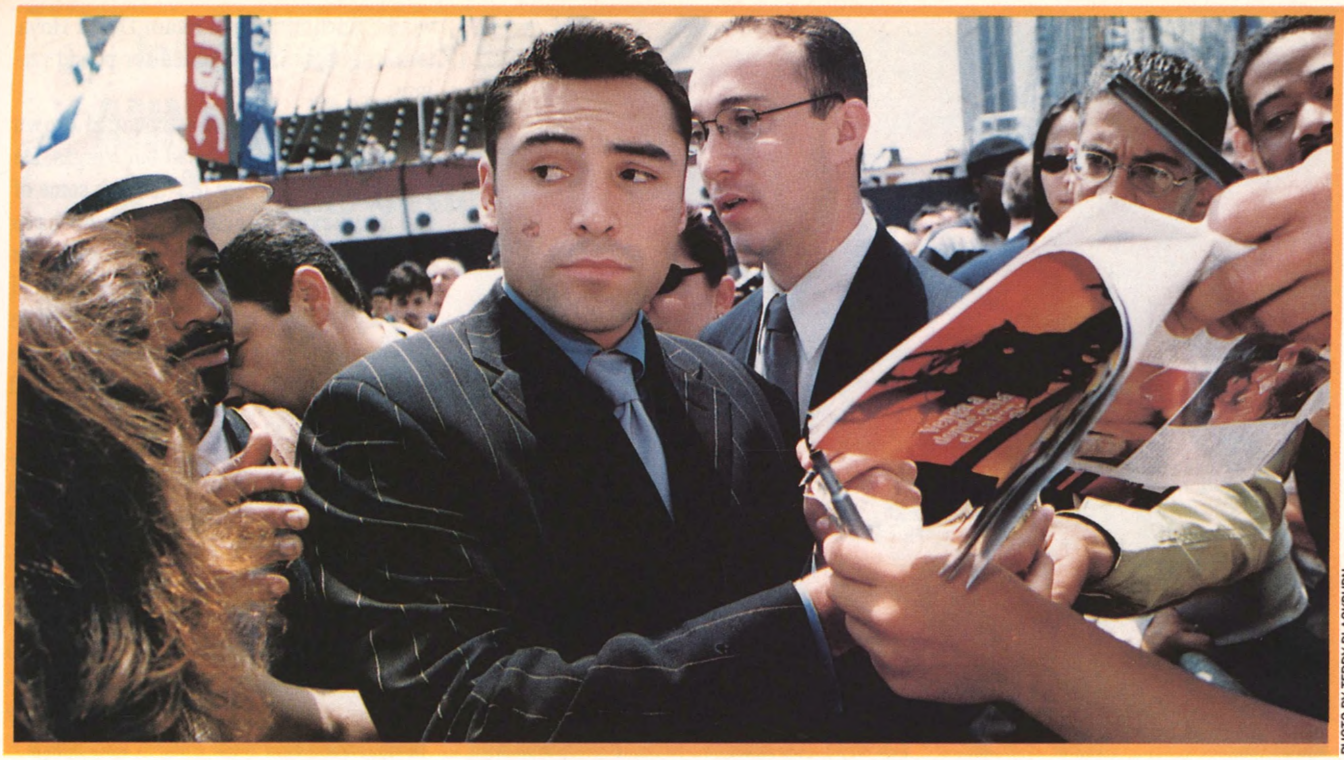


PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

De La Hoya is still mobbed by fans wherever he goes, but has been severely criticized by the media of late despite aggressively taking on premium opposition. Some believe the "great" label was applied much too prematurely.

million, to De La Hoya's $21-million, on the Trinidad fight and that De La Hoya wanted a promotional deal that was more advantageous to him. Arum refused to comment for this story, and De La Hoya couldn't be reached.

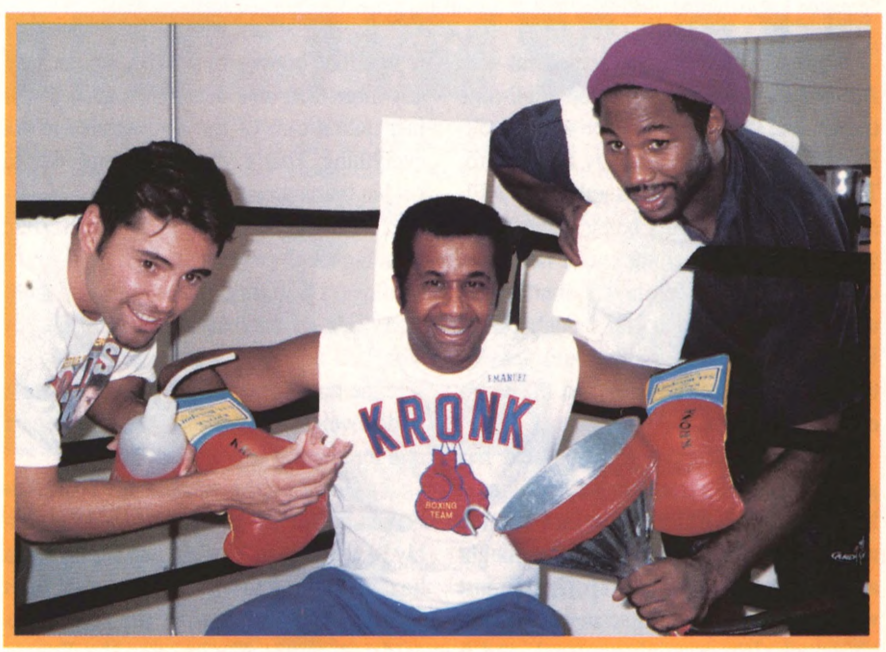
The problem for De La Hoya, when he eventually returns to action, is that he's going to be operating with little margin for error in his quest to keep the Brinks truck parked outside his dressing room door.

"De La Hoya needs to beat an elite opponent to recapture his status," said HBO analyst Larry Merchant. "But one more loss and Oscar's no longer the $20-million man. Then what? There's a real danger for him here."

Maybe so. But De La Hoya, his final few rounds of backpedaling against Trinidad notwithstanding, doesn't run from danger. If anything, as evidenced by his quality of opposition in 1999 and 2000 and the constant aggressiveness he showed against the sharpshooting Mosley, De La Hoya likes to run toward it. Which is why, despite his current career turmoil and those many voices urging him to retire, he'll be back in 2001 with that pearly white smile replaced by a scowl of determination.

When he does reappear, here's what De La Hoya must do to improve his image, regain his clout, and get back on the path to greatness:

1) Make peace with Arum: De La Hoya must reach an out-of-court settlement with Top Rank or risk being on the shelf until, possibly, the middle of 2001. By that time, a rematch with Trinidad may be out of the question because the WBA super welterweight king will have probably moved up to middleweight. De La Hoya also doesn't need the bad publicity an ugly court proceeding will generate, particularly when the fighter is going to be portrayed as a greedy ingrate who's trying to ditch a promoter who helped him make about $125-million in career earnings.



Most observers agree it's time for De La Hoya to find a new trainer, and rumors have circulated that Emanuel Steward, who trained The Golden Boy briefly in '97, is in line for the job. But can Steward, who already trains Lennox Lewis, among others, make time for De La Hoya?

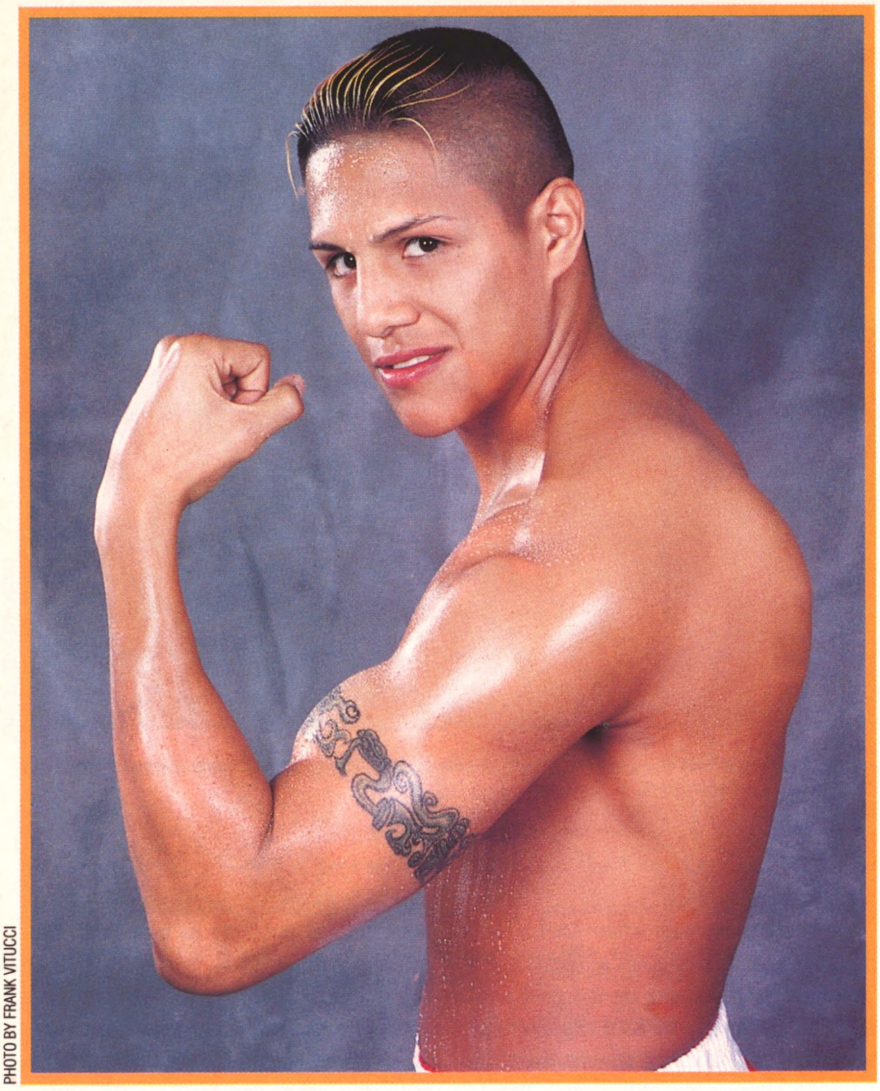


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

One sure way for De La Hoya to regain some of his lost prestige would be to fight—and defeat—Fernando Vargas, who is replacing him as the darling of the Mexican and Mexican-American fans.

Just as important as the settlement with Arum is De La Hoya settling on a full-time trainer and corner crew once and for all. Ever since The Golden Boy turned pro, Team De La Hoya has resembled an NFL squad with free agents being signed on a whim, other guys getting cut or being put on waivers, and role players shuttling in and out of the action. And though De La Hoya and his father, Joel, would deny it, the revolving door has affected the fighter's performances.

"In his two biggest fights, Oscar has gone from one extreme to another," said Merchant. "He fought the late rounds against Trinidad the way he never fought anyone else. Then, against Mosley, he just went right after the guy and never adjusted his attack. It's certainly unusual, and it suggests that after eight years as a pro, he hasn't really found *his* style to impose on a top-caliber opponent. Maybe he can't do any more than he's done. Or maybe it will just take a turn of the screwdriver to fix everything. That's why it's so important to get his training camp in order."

2) Tune up on a softie: A brief respite from the tough guys is recommended, and a confidence-building, crowd-pleasing kayo won't hurt anyone but the poor stiff getting whacked out. De La Hoya should make sure the target practice takes place at junior middleweight, though, in order to prepare him for his next move, which is to ...

3) Go after the winner of Trinidad-Fernando Vargas: Either foe would probably be easier than Mosley, and De La Hoya has already shown that he can beat Trinidad (no matter what the scorecards said). A rematch win over the Puerto Rican, who's currently on a roll and earning more accolades with each outing, would quiet critics and return De La Hoya to a lofty spot in the pound-for-pound ratings.

If that shot at a fourth world crown comes not against Trinidad but Vargas, De La Hoya has a chance to win back some of the Mexican-American fans who have switched their allegiance to "Ferocious Fernando." Still, if he beats either Trinidad or Vargas, De La Hoya should resist the temptation to take on the David Reids, Ike Quarteys, and Francisco Castillejos and instead ...

4) Drop back down to welterweight: That's right. Even as a welter, De La Hoya has never displayed the power he showed as a junior lightweight and lightweight. (His four biggest welterweight battles, against Mosley, Trinidad, Quartey, and Pernell Whitaker, all went the distance.) So if he campaigns full-time as a 154-pounder, he is virtually guaranteed to have plenty more 12-round wars of attrition.

At welterweight, De La Hoya can seek revenge against Mosley or choose from James Page, Vernon Forrest, Shannan Taylor, and, if they eventually move up, Kostya Tszyu and Zab Judah. If the 147-pound class was any deeper, those trying to ascend it would be in danger of getting the bends.

5) Re-dedicate himself: No one was more media-conscious and in love with himself than Leonard, but you didn't see him cutting albums or hoping to be the next Sidney Poitier.

"At Oscar's level, he needs more than his skills to get him through," said Atlas. "He needs a passion to want to be the best."

De La Hoya, a throwback in some ways, once said that his remedy for a bad bruise is "a big New York steak" applied to the wound. That doesn't work so well when it's one's reputation that's black-and-blue. To heal that, De La Hoya will have to oil up his left hook, plant his feet, and remind us all why we became so infatuated with him in the first place. And if Mr. Mosley is in his plans, De La Hoya had better mount his next charge with his mind on nothing else but boxing.

Either that, or he'd better find a butcher shop that will be open late on fight night. ■

Jeff Ryan is a freelance writer based in New York and a longtime columnist for this magazine.

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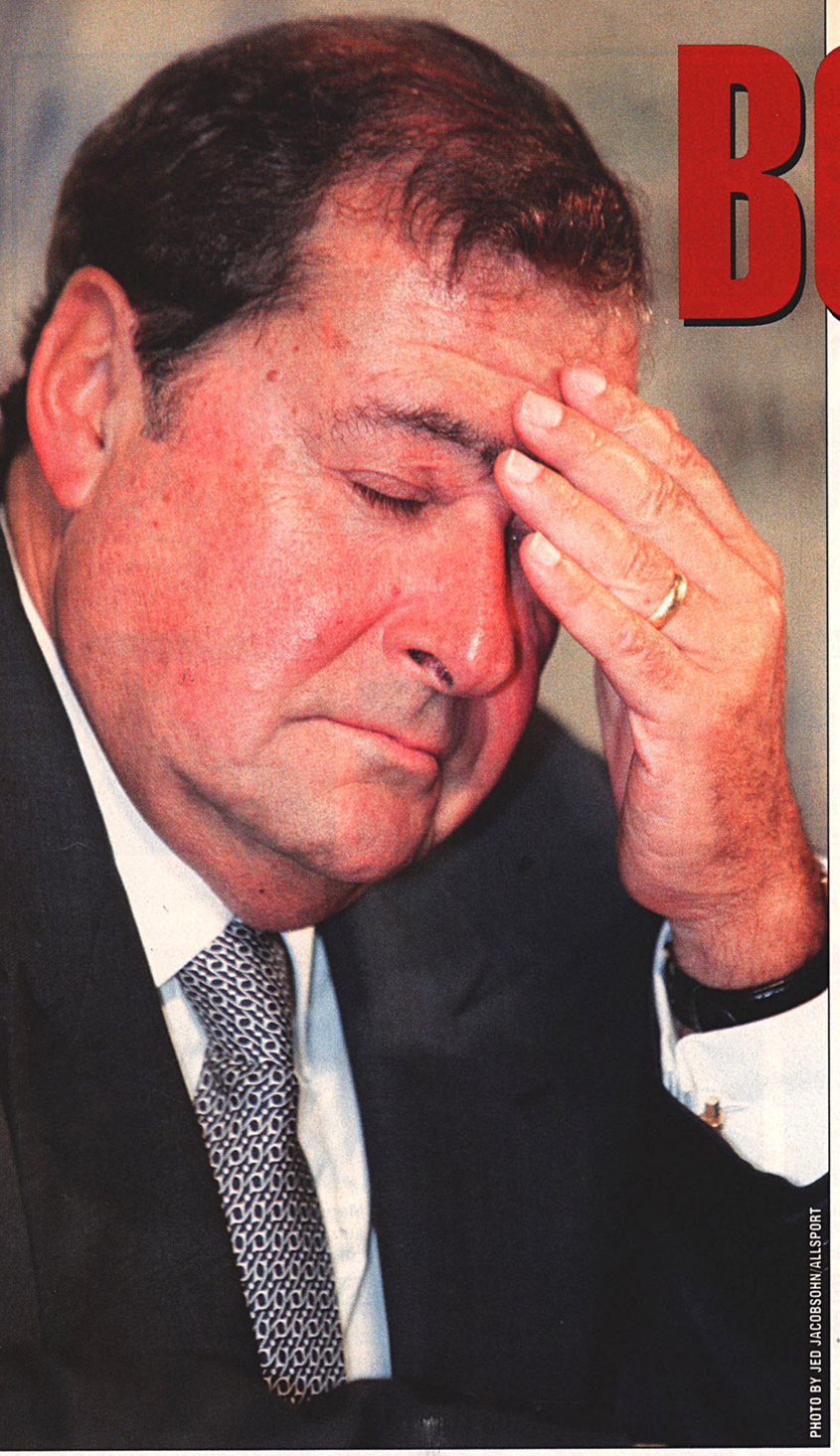


PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT

BOB'S BUMMER!

Can Arum Bounce Back From His 12 Months In Hell?

By Kevin Iole

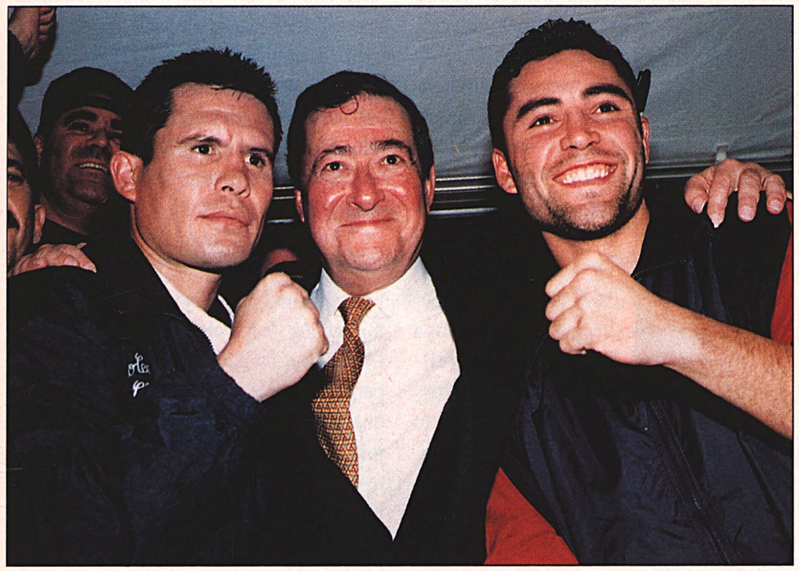
One gets the idea that Bob Arum would love to be able to do what happened to Bill Murray's character in the movie *Groundhog Day*, when he kept going back in time. If Arum, the president of Top Rank and one of the top promoters in the business, could, he undoubtedly would spin the calendar back to early-September 1999.

To put it mildly, the last year has not been kind to Arum. Consider that:

•His meal ticket, welterweight Oscar De La Hoya, inexplicably decides to run and not punch over the final three rounds and loses a controversial decision to Felix Trinidad in the so-called "Fight Of The Millennium" on September 18, 1999. Worse than the loss is what the running does to De La Hoya's reputation.

•Floyd Mayweather, his rising star, the man he was trying to build into the next Sugar Ray Leonard, hires rap impresario James Prince as his manager, turns down a $12.5-million contract from HBO, develops a nasty feud with his father, and all but turns invisible.

•Arum is unable to reach terms with Trinidad's promoter, Don King, on a rematch with De La Hoya. Arum insists that the fight be at welterweight, while King wants a catch weight of 150. "He's willing to blow this fight over a few ounces, which is amazing," King said. Spurned, Trinidad goes on to decision David Reid to win the WBA super welterweight title. To add insult to injury, Arum predicts rain on the Trinidad-Reid fight, which is held outdoors at Caesars Palace. Instead, it is perfect weather, 70 degrees and calm.



A happy-looking Arum poses with Julio Cesar Chavez and Oscar De La Hoya prior to their junior welterweight megafight in 1996. Now, De La Hoya is suing Arum in an effort to break away from the man who has promoted him since he turned pro in '92.

•Diego Corrales, a Top Rank fighter, wins the IBF junior lightweight title, one of the few good things to happen to Top Rank over the last year. But just nine months into his title reign, Corrales is arrested and charged with spousal abuse, leaving him with an uncertain future.

•Arum testifies for the government at the racketeering trial of ex-IBF President Robert W. Lee. His admission that he paid $100,000 in an effort to gain sanction for a George Foreman-Axel Schulz rematch fails to help the government's case, as Lee is acquitted on the most serious of charges. Arum, however, pays dearly for his cooperation, as he is fined $125,000 by the Nevada State Athletic Commission and put on six months probation for "conduct detrimental to unarmed combat." In early-October, New Jersey prosecutors ask the Casino Control Commission to ban Arum from staging boxing matches in Atlantic City. The CCC could consider the request at its November meeting.

•De La Hoya's comeback is derailed when the fighter is beaten soundly by Shane Mosley in an exciting fight. Afterward, a glum Arum talks of De La Hoya retiring.

•De La Hoya then turns around and sues Arum in federal court in an attempt to break his promotional agreement with Top Rank. Arum countersues, further driving a wedge between himself and his one-time superstar.

•Several weeks after De La Hoya's original suit, the fighter announces he has signed a new promotional agreement with Univision Sports and Jerry Perenchio, its chairman and chief executive officer.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Arum's relationship with De La Hoya soured after Shane Mosley beat "The Golden Boy" by split decision in June 2000. The fight probably would not have taken place had Arum succeeded in making a rematch between De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Arum thought he had a new superstar in the making with WBC super featherweight champion Floyd Mayweather, but things began to go downhill when Mayweather declined a $12.5-million contract with HBO.

Arum has a close relationship with a subsidiary, the Univision television network, the largest Spanish-language network in the country, but nonetheless includes Univision in his lawsuit.

•Even the small things get Arum. He arranges a news conference to announce the rematch between Paulie Ayala and Johnny Tapia, who put on the 1999 Fight of the Year. But the news conference has to be delayed several days when Arum discovers at the last minute that Tapia is represented by America Presents (whom he would proceed to fire about a week later).

It was enough to make Arum wonder if perhaps Don King had a doll of him and was sticking pins in it somewhere.

"It's been eventful, I'll give you that," Arum sighed.

Arum has built a reputation over the years for an explosive temper, but he has managed to keep himself composed despite the trials and tribulations he has faced recently. Arum handled De La Hoya's Univision announcement coolly, calling it "very, very good news." However, his stance wasn't due to his excitement over De La Hiya finding a new home, but rather because De La Hoya had chosen a well-bankrolled company that would be able to make the large damage payments that Arum is convinced he will win in court.

"I look at this as a very, very good development because in the whole scheme of things, we wouldn't want someone interfering in our contract who didn't have deep pockets," Arum said. "We don't have to worry about that because obviously in this case, we're dealing with someone who does have deep pockets."

Only when he was penalized by the NSAC two days before Lee beat the rap on the most significant charges against him did Arum erupt. His attorneys had pleaded with the Nevada attorney general's office to delay a disciplinary hearing against him until after a verdict in the Lee trial had been reached. Nevada boxing regulators declined, however, noting that their's was not a criminal proceeding. Arum accepted his punishment with grace at the hearing, but exploded after the Lee verdict was reached.

Several weeks later, he hadn't softened his stance. He said his wife, Luvee, was "devastated" by what had happened and said he was considering pulling up stakes and moving away from Las Vegas, taking Top Rank along with him.

"This attorney general [Frankie Sue Del Papa] is out of her mind," Arum said. "That type of lack of judgment, not to wait when there is a federal jury deliberating a serious case, is incomprehensible to me.

"You know and I know there would have been a completely different atmosphere if they had waited until the trial was over. Why did they have to pick on the only guy who voluntarily came forward and why have they ignored a guy [King] who is cited in dozens of instances on wiretaps of doing this? There's something sinister here."

That type of reaction has been the exception rather than the norm for Arum as he navigated his way through the many mine fields that were laid for him. A longtime close friend and frequent business partner, Stan Hoffman, wonders if Arum's desire has begun to wane. Hoffman is a manager of fighters and is the man Arum testified he gave $100,000 to that was intended for Lee as the payment for the IBF's sanction of the Foreman-Schulz fight. Hoffman said he suspects Arum has lost some of his zest for the game.

"The truth of the matter is, the business we're in takes a toll on you," said Hoffman, who, like Arum, is 68. "I love it and I don't want to do anything else, and I'll do this until the day I die, but boxing is a sport that extracts a piece of you when you've been in it as long as Bob and I have.

"I've been in other businesses, like in the music business, and it's not like this. In the other businesses, when you have a contract, you have a contract. That's not true in boxing. In boxing, very frankly, you never know what you have. You can't go to school and learn or read in a book, and be good at it. You fly by the seat of your pants. Rules are just paper and they don't mean anything. A handshake is meaningless. I think that's taken a toll on Bob. It's very, very tough to take for anyone, but look how long he's done it and how many battles he's fought."

Many of those battles have been with King, who has taken delight at the recent troubles of the man he calls "The Snake." King said many of the problems were the

result of deviousness or miscalculations on Arum's part and not just by random bad luck. He said Arum would not have had the problems he had if he had not been conniving.

"I told you from the first day that Oscar should never have been fighting Shane Mosley," King said. "He did to us what he complained about [America Presents CEO Dan] Goossen doing to him during the Trinidad fight."

Goossen scheduled a news conference to discuss a Mike Tyson fight while the boxing media was in Las Vegas to cover De La Hoya-Trinidad. Arum erupted and engaged in a loud, very public shouting match with Goossen at a function later that night.

But King said as he and Goossen were promoting Reid-Trinidad in March, Arum made the announcement that De La Hoya would fight Mosley.

"He shouldn't have been making no announcement that week because he complained about Goossen doing the same thing," King said. "Why don't he live by what he says? But the real truth is, he should have just gotten a Trinidad rematch done. There was all this complaining about weight: 'Oh no, Oscar can't fight above 147 pounds. No way.' But we're talking three pounds, just a couple of ounces, and it is that big of a deal. The problems Bob Arum has are all problems he's brought on himself."

(Continued on page 65)

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Former IBF junior lightweight champion Diego Corrales is another Top Rank fighter who has caused Arum grief. The talented, hard-hitting fighter is currently facing potentially ruinous criminal charges.

WHO'S NEXT?

The Fighters Most Likely To Be P-4-P King

By Eric Raskin

Felix Trinidad and Zab Judah, two potential future pound-for-pound kings, shake hands. Veteran Trinidad has been under consideration for the number-one spot for several years, whereas upstart Judah is still looking to crack the top 10.

Roy Jones is not the best fighter in the world anymore. If you didn't come to that conclusion after Shane Mosley's brilliant victory over Oscar De La Hoya, as THE RING *did, then surely you were convinced by the way Jones struggled with Eric Harding despite holding a two-to-one advantage in fully functioning biceps muscles.*

Of course, Jones is almost 32 years old, and it says quite a bit about his Robinsonian talents that he remained as untouchable as he did for as long as he did. Julio Cesar Chavez was 31 when he lost the perception of pound-for-pound superiority in his gift draw with Pernell Whitaker, who himself was 32 when he struggled with Wilfredo Rivera, allowing Jones to slide in. Jones is reaching that age where even the most special fighters begin to erode, and it's time for the next generation of pound-for-pound aspirants to take over.

For the moment, Mosley is The Man. But Sugar Shane had 29 candles on his latest birthday cake (not counting any extra candles for good luck, which Mosley doesn't seem to need), and he won't be on top forever. Fortunately for the boxing world, though, there are plenty of hungry young lions growling about their placement on the pound-for-pound list and snarling about how we'll see them at number one someday soon.

In this article, we explore the select group of fighters who have not yet been to the top of the pound-for-pound pile but have the potential to make it there in the near future. It takes a lot to be recognized as the best in boxing. Talent is a must, but it's not enough. Desire is essential, but doesn't guarantee anything. Top-drawer opposition against which to prove yourself is also required, but then you have to have the talent and desire to overcome that opposition. It takes a rare combination of blessings to reach the pinnacle, and here are seven fighters with realistic chances of making it.

Trinidad rocks David Reid with his vaunted left hook en route to a unanimous decision and the WBA super welterweight title. "Tito's" move up to 154 pounds appears to have rejuvenated him after a lackluster showing last year against Oscar De La Hoya.

FELIX TRINIDAD

Why he will reach the top: "Tito" is already within arm's reach of number one. He reigned as welterweight champion for almost seven years, may have hurt himself a little in beating De La Hoya—but, hey, a win over Oscar is a win over Oscar—and then looked better than ever wiping out David Reid in March. And shortly after this magazine hits the newsstands, Trinidad, 38-0 (31), will be attempting to unify two-thirds of the junior middleweight title against Fernando Vargas. So by the morning after that fight, Trinidad might just wake up the pound-for-pound champ. His quality of opposition gives him the opportunity to go down as one of the greatest of all-time, especially if that plan to meet Jones at 168 next year comes to fruition and Jones has slipped enough by late-2001 for Trinidad to pull off the upset. With knockout power in both hands, brutally effective combination punching, excellent skills, and supreme focus, Trinidad has all the tools to become pound-for-pound king.

Why he won't reach the top: If he loses to Vargas, his momentum is destroyed, and at 27 years of age, it's doubtful he'll have time to re-establish himself to the point where he's ever perceived as boxing's number-one man. And a loss to Vargas—or anyone else for that matter—is possible primarily because of Tito's chin. Tommy Hearns never quite nudged ahead of rivals Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler in the pound-for-pound race because his chin was second-rate, and Trinidad's fate could be similar. Also, the Puerto Rican star was made to look like a pound-for-pound chump when De La Hoya thoroughly outboxed him for most of their fight.

DIEGO CORRALES

Why he will reach the top: Ask Angel Manfredy. The former "El Diablo," perhaps one of the top 25 or 30 pound-for-pound fighters himself, was absolutely obliterated by the machine that is "Chico" Corrales. The six-foot-tall lightweight-to-be has incredible punching power, and as Emanuel Steward noted during the Manfredy fight, he's capable of unleashing it at times when it seems he's doing nothing more than being defensively responsible. Corrales, 33-0 (27), towers over oppo-

Even on an off-day, Corrales was far too much for challenger Justin Juuko, bludgeoning him into a 10th-round stoppage on the Shane Mosley-Oscar De La Hoya undercard. "Chico" is a destructive force, but his legal problems may put his brilliant future in jeopardy.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Naseem Hamed is embraced by his brother Riath after his dramatic win over Augie Sanchez in August. For all his showmanship, Naz is fiercely competitive once the bell rings, and if he steps up the level of his opposition, the top spot could soon be his.

nents, is well-schooled, has a good chin, and seems to get better with every fight. He showed potential as he rose through the ranks on ESPN2, but didn't exactly have the look of greatness. He opened a lot of eyes winning the title from Roberto Garcia, but didn't appear the pound-for-pound sort just yet. Then, after three defenses, came the Manfredy fight, and suddenly he had earned a spot on THE RING's pound-for-pound list—at number *five*, no less.

Why he won't reach the top: The biggest snag with which Corrales has to contend has nothing to do with what he's capable of inside the ring. It's just that it's hard to *be* pound-for-pound when you're *in* the pound. Corrales is facing an impending trial on charges of assaulting his wife, and if found guilty, Chico's boxing career will hit the floor faster than Manfredy did. There's also the fact that Corrales tends to get hit a lot, and that he'll probably have to go through the brilliantly gifted Floyd Mayweather to make it to the top, but it's his outside-the-ring situation that threatens most to stifle him.

NASEEM HAMED

Why he will reach the top: One word: power. Hamed is already the hardest pound-for-pound puncher in the sport, and if his defense ever catches up to his offense, it will be difficult to deny the bombastic Brit a spot at the top of the rankings. Another plus for "The Prince" is that, as he reminds us after every fight, he has the "heart of a lion." Hamed believes he will always find a way to win, and his confidence cannot be shaken, even when guys like Kevin Kelley and Augie Sanchez have him on the canvas, seemingly just a few punches from defeat. Unfortunately for Naz, his pound-for-pound momentum has been stalled out for some time now, as he's spent the bulk of the last three years inside the top 10, yet outside the top five. That is in large part a by-product of the competition he has faced, but Hamed finally appears ready to step up in class with fights against Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera next year. If Hamed, 35-0 (31), beats that pair, he'll have a reasonable claim to the pound-for-pound throne.

Why he won't reach the top: Can you imagine someone who had a life-and-death struggle with *Augie Sanchez* being recognized as the best in the business? Naz' defense is spotty at best, his balance unreliable, and his chin still a major question mark. Even if the training team of Oscar Suarez and Emanuel Steward somehow get Hamed straightened out, and he flattens Morales and Barrera, the images of him floundering against Sanchez, Kelley, and Paul Ingle will linger and make it difficult to elevate him to the top spot.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER

Why he will reach the top: Simply put, Mayweather might be the most gifted fighter to come along since Roy Jones. In fact, "Pretty Boy Floyd" has a lot in common with the undisputed light heavyweight champ, from his awesome hand speed, to his Olympic disappointment, to his arrogance, to his acrimonious relationship with his father. So if Jones' makeup could

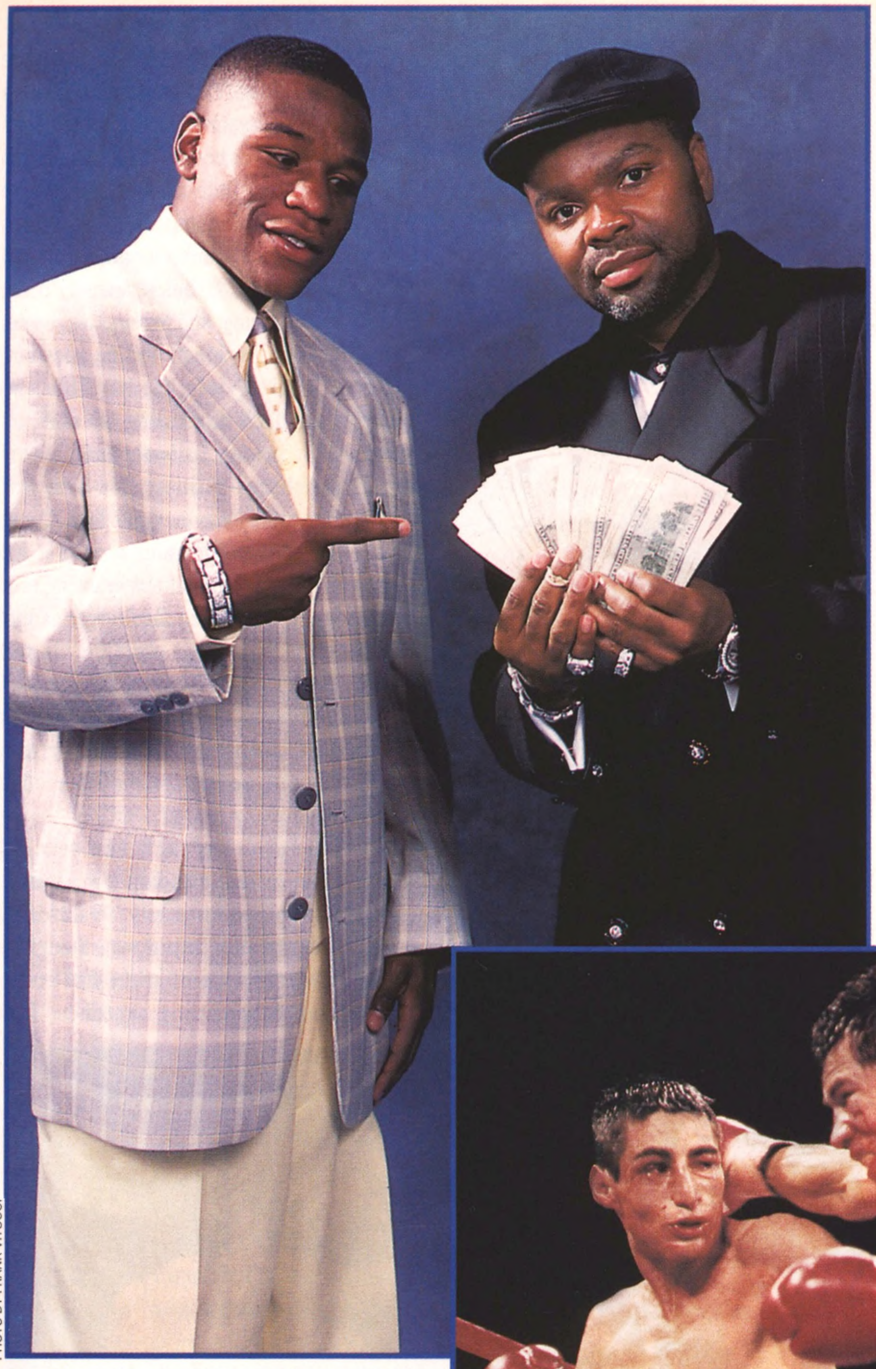


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Manager James Prince shows Floyd Mayweather the money, but there could be a lot more of it if "Pretty Boy" was more active. Based purely on physical gifts, Mayweather has an excellent chance of being recognized as boxing's best in the coming years.

somehow be interpreted as a recipe for pound-for-pound success, then all the ingredients are there for Mayweather as well. But unlike Jones, Mayweather, 23-0 (17), has potential superfights looming without having to jump above or below his weight class (though Mayweather has hinted that a move to lightweight is impending). Diego Corrales and Joel Casamayor are both undefeated and highly regarded, and provided Corrales' legal problems don't ruin his career, a superfight between he and Mayweather is in the works for next spring. Mix in the likes of Acelino Freitas and Jesus Chavez, Mayweather's mandatory challenger, and you'll see that there's plenty of comp out there to bring out Mayweather's greatness.

Why he won't reach the top: There are only three people who can hold Mayweather back: Corrales, James Prince, and a fellow named Floyd Mayweather. With all respect to guys like Casamayor and Freitas, Corrales is the only fighter who poses a threat to Mayweather, and it's a very real threat indeed. Prince, Mayweather's new manager, needs to understand that in order to make money in boxing, the fighter actually has to fight. And Mayweather has to learn the difference between ability and earning power, accept that he's not Oscar De La Hoya at the box office, and remind us all how special he is inside the ropes.

ERIK MORALES

Why he will reach the top: Morales has the heart and courage of a Mexican,

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Erik Morales' unforgettable war with Marco Antonio Barrera last February highlighted both his strengths and his shortcomings. "El Terrible" has tremendous heart and ability, but he also has mediocre defense and can easily be lured into a brawl.

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT

IBF junior middleweight champ Fernando Vargas launches a long right hand during his impressive August title defense against Ross Thompson. Vargas has obvious pound-for-pound potential, but he has to learn to steer clear of trouble outside the ring.

combined with a more intelligent, versatile fighting style than the old left-hook-to-the-liver standby employed by most bangers south of the border. "El Terrible" is rangy, can jab and move, can dig to the body, and has a crippling overhand right. Combine all those weapons with the chin and guts the 24-year-old featherweight showed against Marco Antonio Barrera, and Morales, 38-0 (30), could follow in the footsteps of legendary countryman Julio Cesar Chavez as a pound-for-pound potentate. He also has the requisite competition. Wins over such names as Daniel Zaragoza, Junior Jones, Wayne McCullough, and Barrera (albeit controversial) have gotten him as high as number eight, and Morales could conceivably leap seven spots all at once if his right hand flattens Naseem Hamed. If anyone has the style to beat The Prince, it could be the patient, iron-chinned, hard-hitting Morales.

Why he won't reach the top: For starters, regardless of what the judges said, he was bested by Barrera. Some would argue that Morales simply fought the wrong fight and allowed himself to be goaded into a brawl, but that right there is a flaw that Morales will have to work on if he has aspirations of being recognized as the best. Morales isn't too hard to hit, a fact proven by Jones and McCullough before Barrera came along and made it brutally obvious. And the Mexican's hand speed is nothing special. Morales is an excellent fighter, and he may be in the top 10 for years to come, but he's something of a longshot to go all the way to number one.

FERNANDO VARGAS

Why he will reach the top: If confidence were a drug, Vargas would be stammering like Ozzy Osbourne. "Ferocious Fernando" believes he can't be beaten, and there's been very little that's happened so far in his career to suggest otherwise. An Olympian at age 18 and a world champ by 21, Vargas, 20-0 (18), has repeatedly been told he's too young and inexperienced to do the things he's doing, and he goes out and does them anyway. He has excellent poise, tremendous ring smarts, solid if not spectacular power in both hands, and expert finishing instincts. He beat Ike Quartey far more convincingly than Oscar De La Hoya did, thus earning a spot on the pound-for-pound list, and a win over Felix Trinidad—no sure thing, as Vargas is the slight underdog—should place him in the top three. And unlike Tito, the 22-year-old Vargas will probably have ample time to bounce back and make another run at the P-4-P crown if he loses their December megafight.

Why he won't reach the top: If Vargas can't beat the rap on assault charges stemming from a July '99 incident, it will certainly slow him down, though it doesn't seem the type of crime that could warrant a career-ending sentence. But

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Terronn Millett can testify to the awesome speed and power of the 23-year-old Judah. But he also exposed one of Judah's flaws in their recent battle when he dropped Judah with a left hook.

Vargas is a hot head outside the ring, and sooner or later his temper could get him into even deeper water. Also, while Vargas is young and talented, he doesn't quite have the athleticism of a Roy Jones or a Floyd Mayweather. Just how far he can go on desire, determination, and intelligence, without having an ace like one-punch power or blinding quickness, remains to be seen.

ZAB JUDAH

Why he will reach the top: Judah's backers have been calling him Pernell Whitaker with a punch since his amateur days, and if you subscribe to that endorsement, the IBF junior welter champ is on his way to being the best fighter since Sugar Ray Robinson. Certainly there's some validity to it. Judah does have one-punch power, a tricky southpaw style, awesome quickness and athleticism, and a winning attitude. He's young, he's always in great shape, and he's knocking on the pound-for-pound door in just his first year as a champion. Judah, 24-0 (18) with 1 no-contest, is still probably at least a year or two away from reaching his full capacity and having a shot at number one, but the pure potential is undeniably there.

Why he won't reach the top: The key to Whitaker's success was his mesmerizing defense, and that's where the Pernell-with-a-punch line doesn't quite ring true. Whitaker could get cocky without getting sloppy, and Judah can't. His defensive moves are exceptional, but he makes more mistakes than "Sweet Pea" ever did, and when he gets tagged, he goes down. It happened against both Jan Bergman and Terronn Millett, and if it happens against someone who can really punch, Judah's going to be picking his platinum teeth up off the canvas. Another problem for Judah is his competition. Yes, the 140-pound class is deep, but none of the Brooklynite's potential rivals—Kostya Tszyu, Sharmba Mitchell, Antonio Diaz—are pound-for-pounders. Whereas Trinidad and Vargas, Mayweather and Corrales, and Hamed and Morales all have each other, for Judah, it will take an eventual move up to 147 against Shane Mosley to prove he belongs at the top of the pound-for-pound list. ■

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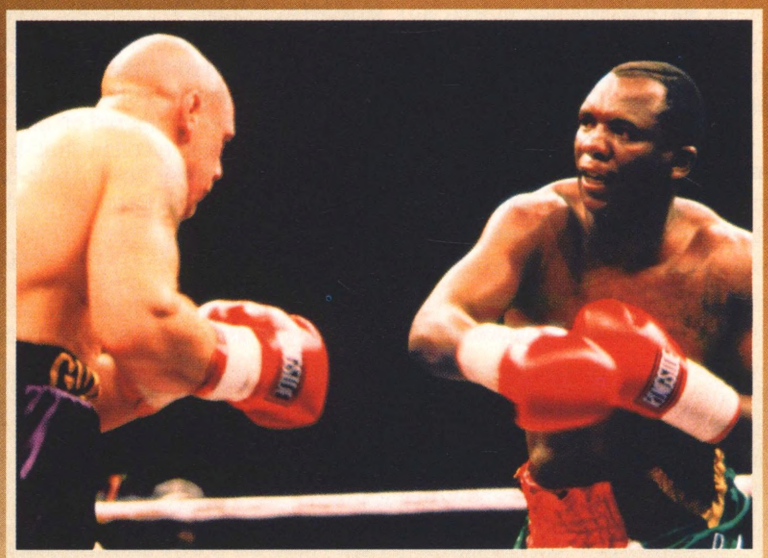
WBC SUPER MIDDLE CHAMP

DINGAAN THOBELA

"The Rose Of Soweto" Is Smelling Sweet Again!

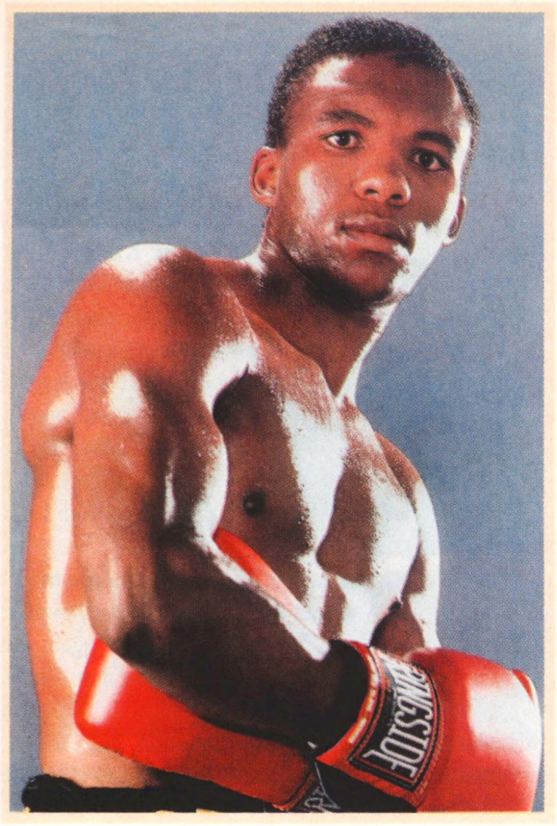


Thobela has put on 33 pounds since his days as the lightweight champion (opposite top), but he can still fight, as was proven by his upset 12th-round knockout of Glenn Catley to win the WBC super middleweight title.

By Gavin Evans

Let's travel back a bit to the southern Transvaal town of Springs, November 21, 1987. Two undefeated South African featherweights squared off for a fight that would chart their destinies. In the far corner was local favorite Shorne Moorcroft, a canny brawler who was a little more experienced than the sleek, 21-year-old stylist opposite him. Moorcroft was obliterated in five one-sided rounds, failed a brain scan, and was never the same again. The other fellow took off and, for better or for worse, has remained one of the most recognizable names and faces in South African public life.

That small but seminal fight provided many fans with their first glimpse of "The Rose Of Soweto," and for a lot of them it felt like one of those I've-seen-the-future epiphanies. The balance and reflexes, the speed of hand and foot, the rhythm and



grace, the sudden bursts of power, those blurring combinations, marked Dingaan Thobela as something extraordinary. Never before had such innate potential been seen in a South African boxing ring. Never since either.

Five years later, Thobela beat Tony Lopez for the WBA lightweight title. Thirteen years on, at the Carnival City casino, not far from Springs, he set a record of sorts by jumping five weight divisions to knock out Glenn Catley for the WBC super middleweight title (the previous record was shared by Bob Fitzsimmons, who rose from middleweight to heavyweight champion, and Henry Armstrong, who skipped from the featherweight to the welterweight world titles—four weight hops by today's markers).

Even before beating Lopez, Thobela had emerged as a symbol of black success. He was the toast of the Soweto socialites, attracted beauty queens and high rollers to his side, hummed along to American soul on his CD, played squash at the health club, and never used public transport.

Not that his upbringing was easy. This, after all, was apartheid South Africa, where black skin was unlikely to survive without a few scars. He was one of seven children of Godfrey Thobela, a former boxer whose wife died young. Living in a four-room shack in Chiawelo, Soweto, it was a bit of a squash, so Dingaan was sent to live with his aunt. His father was a good enough provider, but money had to be stretched to the breaking point.

Much of the hardship came from outside the home. When he was 10 years old, the students of Soweto marched against apartheid education. The state's murderous response left nearly 800 dead. Over the next decade Thobela's school career was periodically interrupted by school boycotts and state violence, and there was plenty of criminal violence to contend with as well.

"In a sense," said Thobela, "the violence in Soweto was, and is, a part of me; I grew up with it."

Godfrey was concerned about his son's survival and taught Dingaan to box.

"He wanted me to be able to look after myself," explained Thobela. "The idea was for me to be able to defend myself against other kids without a panga or a knife."

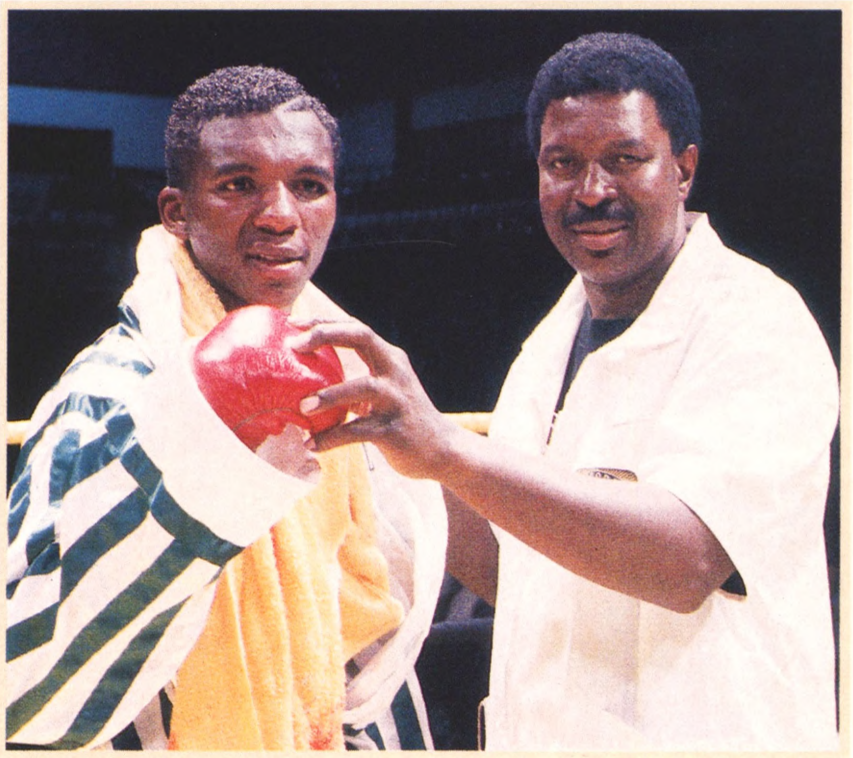
The teenager was a keen and quick student, and soon his dreams of becoming a soccer hero were transferred to this fresh obsession.

"Boxing was like a call to me. I was a big fan of Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard, and I soon became very anxious to be a real boxer," recalled Thobela. "My father had this friend Norman Hlabane, who ran a gym, so he took me to see him, and then Norman took over my training and I began my amateur career."

Within three years, Thobela had racked up 83 amateur fights, winning 80. He turned professional three months before his 20th birthday, and after 12 fights, lifted the South African super featherweight title.

Thobela gave the appearance of effortless progression in every department. He matriculated from high school, then did two years at a teachers' training college before becoming a virtually instant professional boxing success. He was a charming, articulate, intelligent, pretty boy who excelled at all sports. His rise was seamless, his style dazzling, his power exceptional. It all seemed to come so easy.

In 1990, Thobela's promoter, Thinus



Thobela and his original trainer Norman Hlabane. The talented but erratic South African boxer has been through many changes of trainers and promoters during his up and down career.

Strydom, accepted an offer for Thobela to travel to Brownsville, Texas, where he outpointed Mauricio Aceves for the low-rent WBO lightweight title. He looked brilliant in his first defense, against Mario Martinez in San Jose, but then went off the boil.

The long, late hours of carousing and the Soweto celebrity lifestyle left their mark. Thobela would insist that his commitment was unchanged, but the physical evidence suggested otherwise, and it became obvious that, like so many boxers, there was a strong element of self-righteous denial in his makeup. Whatever went wrong, Thobela was never at fault. He combined a heightened sense of his own importance with a deep suspicion about those who did not treat him accordingly. Not making a scene. Obeying decorum. Being treated just-so. These things were important to Thobela.

These dimensions to his character soon had professional implications. Thobela wanted to fight Brian Mitchell or Pernell Whitaker, and when Strydom couldn't deliver, he signed with Rodney Berman for the first of nine promotional switches. Berman persuaded him to relinquish the WBO title and secured Thobela a shot at WBA lightweight champion Tony Lopez in the American's hometown of Sacramento in February '93.

Thobela entered the ring throwing roses into the crowd. He gave one of the finest performances of his career, boxing rings around Lopez, raking him with his jab, confusing him with his speed, and catching him with surprise uppercuts and blistering combinations. The ringside press was unanimous that Thobela was a clear winner. Jack Fiske of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, for example, made him a six-point victor. But Lopez won a split decision.

Strangely enough, the fight proved to be the making of Thobela, who instantly became South Africa's first "crossover" (black and white) sporting hero. Thobela's cause was feted by his countrymen, from Nelson Mandela down. The rematch, held in Sun City, South Africa, was something of an anti-climax, with Thobela winning on points.

His first WBA title defense was against unbeaten Russian Orzubek Nazarov, and this time Thobela could not hold it together. Two months of perpetual celebration took its toll, and the defending champion struggled to sweat down from 155 pounds. A listless Thobela dropped Nazarov before running out of gas and losing the title on points.

For the rematch, in March '94, Berman and co-promoter Cedric Kushner sent Thobela to Massachusetts to work with Goody Petronelli, "but unfortunately that didn't work, because it was so cold that I couldn't sweat off the kilos. It was just too much and I had to squeeze myself beyond what my body could take. Unless you've done it, you won't understand how much weight making can take out of you. I had nothing left."

Once again, Thobela was outpointed.

Thobela racked up seven comeback victories, but then it fell apart again. He was dishing out a hiding to future British welterweight champion Geoff McCreesh when he lost concentration, got careless, and was stopped for the first and only time in his career. He followed this with a disputed points loss to Willy Wise, and once again it looked like the end.

Two years ago he fought Walter Daneff for the WBC International welterweight title and hit the scales at 167 pounds, 20 pounds overweight. The fight went ahead and Thobela won in seven, but he was now a figure of ridicule in boxing circles at home.

"People said I could never fight at this weight, but they didn't understand," Thobela explained. "For 10 years I had been straining to make weight, and I didn't want to do that anymore. I sparred with Sugarboy Malinga when he was WBC world [super middleweight] champion, and with some top South African light heavyweights, and I could take their power. I felt good at the weight."

Thobela dropped down to 156 pounds to take on England's Cornelius Carr in October '99, and although he lost a majority decision, he made a good impression.

"I wobbled him, and he couldn't wobble me, but I didn't put in quite enough effort to get the decision," Thobela said. "The problem was I was only fighting

"The Rose Of Soweto" en route to a 12-round decision over Antonio Rivera in September 1991. Thobela was unbeaten in 27 pro bouts at the time and closing in on his first world title shot.

After being robbed in their first fight, Thobela easily outboxed Tony Lopez in the rematch to capture the WBA lightweight title in June 1993. Four months later, he lost the belt to Orzubek Nazarov.

once a year. I couldn't get fights, and that's why I was putting my energies into my work as a boxing commentator on television and into my business ventures, which meant I didn't stay sharp."

Several of these ventures floundered, and Thobela was finding it increasingly difficult to hold on to his mansion and fleet of cars.

"He had serious financial problems for several years," said Berman.

Berman offered him a charity shot at the well-seasoned South African super middleweight champion, Soon Botes. Few gave Thobela a chance, but he dropped the bigger man twice and took a national title six divisions above his last one.

Catley agreed to the defense against Thobela in South Africa because he assumed it would be an easy ride, but this time The Rose Of Soweto left nothing to chance. He was rapidly closing in on his 34th birthday and knew this was his last shot at financial security, and viewed his mission in grandiose terms.

(Continued on page 48)

Dingaan Thobela

(Continued from page 47)

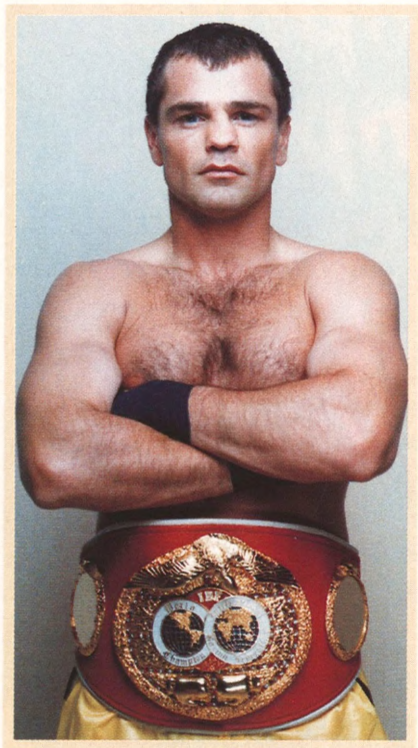
"I'm doing it not only for myself but for my country. I feel they need me right now," Thobela said before the fight.

The early rounds suggested Thobela's tight defense might allow him to last the distance, but not much more. Now and then he would crack in a right, a stiff jab, or a snappy combination, but Catley was busier and his punches hurt. As the fight progressed, however, Thobela gradually began to narrow the gap, forcing the champion into retreat and periodically rocking him. Catley resorted to more blatant use of his head, elbows, and shoulders, belatedly getting a point's deduction by referee Eddie Cotton in the 10th round.

In the 12th, however, Catley finally landed his Sunday punch—a cracking right cross to the jaw, and the end seemed immediate. Catley rushed in, but Thobela met him with a peach of an uppercut. As the champion's eyes rolled, Thobela landed another right to drop him heavily. Catley wobbled up, although he looked in no condition to continue. The final blow was a massive right to the chin, which sent him sprawling across the ring and onto his back. Catley staggered up at nine, but Cotton had finally seen enough, and seven seconds from the final bell, Thobela, 40-7-2 (26), was the new WBC 168-pound champion.

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/ALLSPORT

Thobela lost a 12-round decision to England's Cornelius Carr in October 1999, but performed well enough to prove he could compete successfully at a higher weight.



Next for Thobela is a unification bout with IBF counterpart Sven Ottke in Germany, which will earn the inconsistent South African the largest purse of his 14-year career.

"For me, personally, this has been a huge boost; it has made me very proud again," he said. "It really means a lot to me, and obviously it's also very important for my family, particularly in the financial sense.

Next up is a unification bout with the unbeaten IBF champion Sven Ottke in Berlin on December 1, for which Thobela will earn his highest-ever purse of $300,000. Whoever wins has agreed to defend against the loser after a single voluntary defense, which will set Thobela up for several years to come.

With Thobela, however, there are always distractions. At the time of writing, his training was due to be interrupted by a potentially devastating trial, which his promoter was trying to get postponed until after the Ottke fight. Paula Viera, the sister of Sandra Jacobs (Thobela's live-in lover and the mother of his two children), alleges he beat her. Viera refused to settle out of court, with the result that Thobela was charged with assault. This is not the first time his domestic relations have appeared in the public arena. In 1995, he publicly denied reports that he had assaulted his then-lover, the former Miss South Africa, Basetana Makglemele, and he has also denied the latest charge.

"I'm determined to prove my innocence," said Thobela. "This woman had no bruises, no cuts, no doctor's report, nothing."

Thobela said the trial won't affect his training and that he will be even better prepared than for Catley.

"I've watched the tapes of several of Ottke's fights, and he's certainly a good champion. But even in Germany, I feel I have at least an equal chance of winning, even though to win there I know I will have to stop him. He doesn't punch nearly as hard as Catley and he's not that mobile, so I feel very comfortable about this fight."

The 33-year-old Ottke has already defended the IBF title seven times, and will be the favorite. But with the volatile Thobela, you just never know. In beating Catley he has already proved that his name belongs among the greatest South African boxers of all-time, and now he vows to go one better.

"I'm the first boxer to move up five divisions between world titles, the first African boxer to win a WBC world title in Africa, and the first South African boxer to win major world titles at two weights. And on December 1, I will become the first-ever South African boxer to unify a world title. Just you watch." ■

Gavin Evans is a freelance writer based in London, England.

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THE FIGHTING HERNANDEZ BROTHERS

78 WINS BETWEEN THEM ... BUT NEVER A TITLE SHOT

By Pete Ehrmann

In 1967, when Nebraska was observing the 100th anniversary of its statehood, the idea was kicked around of celebrating the milestone by putting on a prize fight involving two native sons who happened at the time to be ranked second and third, respectively, in boxing's 160-pound division.

The fight would have decided not only who was the best middleweight in the Cornhusker State, but also in the family of Perfecto "Pete" Hernandez, a former featherweight who raised his sons Ferd and Art, and later their younger brothers Chuck and Dale, to "punch, punch, punch, but don't get hit." Growing up in Minatare, in western Nebraska, and then Sydney, Art and Ferd boxed one another often.

"We were putting on these little shows at about 10, 11 years old," recalled Art, now 59 and living in Omaha, where the Hernandez family moved in 1949. "We were the same size until 1960, when my brother won the nationals."

Two years older, Ferd "was a tough dude," said his brother. As a teenager, Ferd was working on a construction crew one 4th of July when his gloved left hand got caught in a cement mixer, yanking him up in the air.

"He dropped down, but his thumb stayed up there in the glove," said Art.

It took 77 stitches to close the wound. A month or so later, Art was boxing on a card, and they needed an opponent for somebody else Ferd's size. So Ferd wrapped up his injured, thumbless left hand, beat the guy, and, his brother remembers, "when they took his glove off, it was all bloody."

Ferd won the National Golden Gloves welterweight title in Chicago. Art had won the first of his five Midwestern Golden Gloves titles as a flyweight in 1956. By 1960, when he won the last one—after which Golden Gloves officials asked him to find something else to do at tournament time next year, so somebody else would have a chance to win—Art was a welterweight, too.

"Dad didn't want us to fight together, so we flipped a coin, and I went to middleweight," explained Art.

A year later, the Hernandez brothers both got boxing scholarships to Idaho State University, a perennial powerhouse in National Collegiate Athletic Association boxing. However, recalled Art, "We didn't fare too well there. Our grades were not too good."

When Art came home for Christmas vacation that first year, his father asked if he wouldn't just as soon go pro as go back to school. On January 17, 1961—his 20th birthday—Art decisioned Ralph Terry in four rounds to begin a 12-year professional boxing career that would see him become, in the words of state boxing historian Tom Lovgren, "Nebraska's greatest boxer in modern times," and, according to Gil Clancy in '69, "one of the damned few complete fighters around today."

The funny thing is that Art didn't want to be a fighter in the first place.

"Dad pushed us," said Art. After his fourth Golden Gloves title, Art told his father, "I don't want to fight anymore." But the senior Hernandez talked him into "one more year, and it just kept going from there."

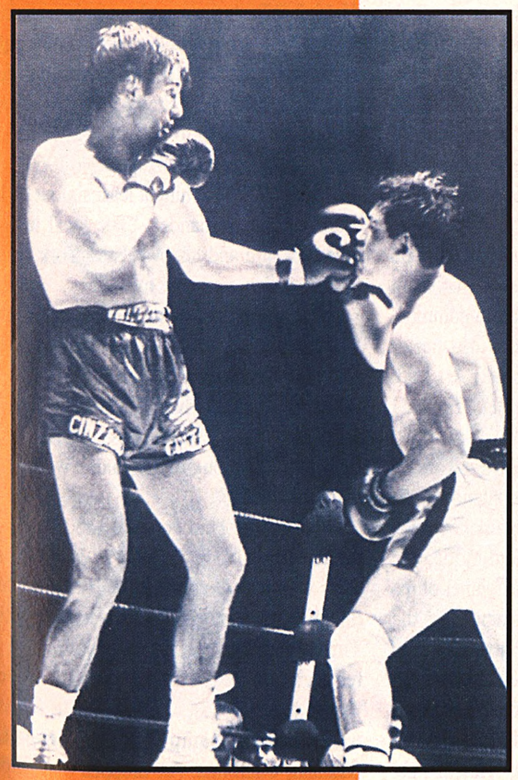
Art was 19-1, and had won a decision over tough Doug MacLeod in his only 10-rounder, when he found himself opposite Sugar Ray Robinson in the ring at the Omaha Civic Center on July 27, 1964.

"It scared the hell out of me. I'll tell you that," said Art. "I'm fighting a guy with five world championships behind him. But after the bell rang, I was fine."

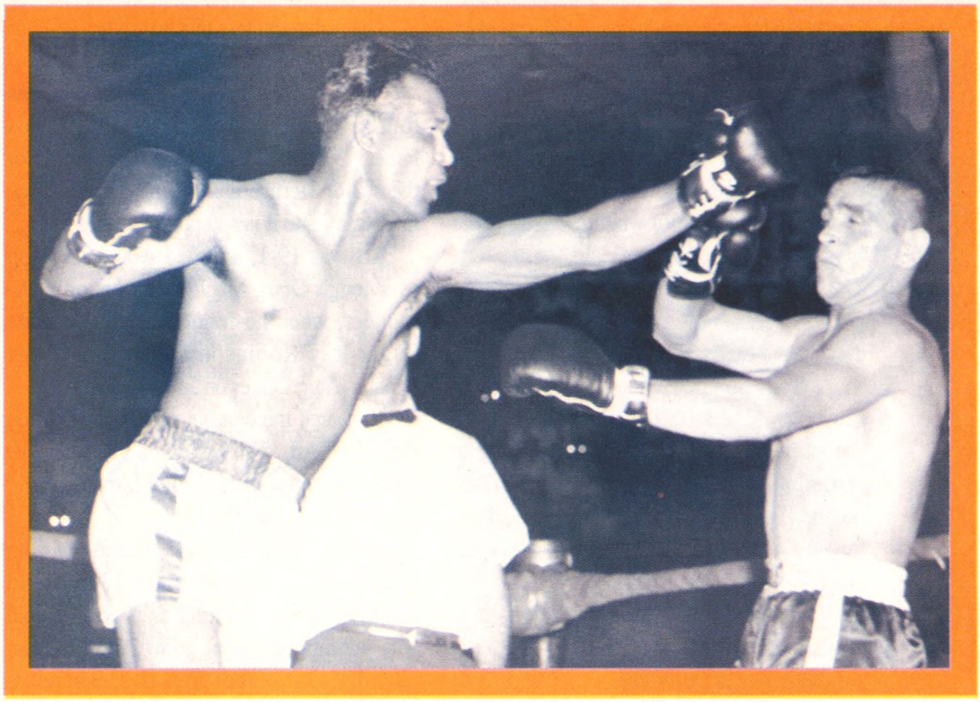
Before 3,500 fans, the Nebraskan who was born the year after the 43-year-old Robinson began fighting as a professional was winning the bout going into the final round. Then, according to Hernandez, "Robinson hit me three times low, because I think he realized he was losing the fight and perhaps wanted to be disqualified. Then the press would have played it up as a hometown decision."

But Sugar Ray wasn't disqualified for the alleged low punches that put Hernandez on the deck, and the decision in the bout was a draw.

Art and his brother Ferd (left) board the train for Chicago where both would compete in the 1960 National Golden Gloves tournament. Nebraska fans still debate which brother was the better fighter.



Both Art and Ferd fought middleweight champion Nino Benvenuti in non-title bouts. Art, fighting with a bad left knee, lost a 10-rounder in Toronto in 1968 (far left). Ferd also lost, dropping a decision to the Italian in Rome two years previously.



In his 21st pro bout, Art found himself in the ring with none other than Sugar Ray Robinson. An ancient Sugar Ray salvaged a draw with a final-round knockdown, but Hernandez claimed it was low blows that put him down.

That fight was responsible for turning both Hernandez brothers into middleweight contenders. Ferd had also turned pro in '61, but up until then had fought only seven times, winning four. When he saw his younger brother go even-up against perhaps the greatest boxer of all-time (albeit the antique version), Ferd told Art in the dressing room, "God dang, boy, if you can do this, I sure can do it."

Ferd moved to Las Vegas, and within half a year was the city's busiest and most popular headliner, plus Nevada middleweight champion. A year after Art's draw with Robinson, Ferd won a decision over the aging ex-champ.

Although Art remained in Omaha, where he decisioned former welterweight contender Isaac Logart after the draw with Sugar Ray, in '65 he started the traveling that would take him to rings all over the country and throughout Europe. His first fight that year was in Rome, against undefeated Nino Benvenuti, who would win the junior middleweight title later that year and later twice reigned over the 160-pound division.

"He was a big, tall guy, 5'11". I'm 5'7"," said Hernandez. "In the first couple of rounds, he was just bombing, and I was just bobbing and weaving. He cut my eye and they stopped it."

Art and Benvenuti met again in '68, when the Italian was middleweight champion. It was a close, non-title bout in Toronto that went 10 rounds, with Benvenuti getting the decision. Lovgren, who followed Hernandez' career from the beginning and reported on it as THE RING's Nebraska correspondent, was at the match.

"Art had a sprained knee and had it wrapped for the fight," the writer recalled. "He went 10 rounds and it was a good fight. I had no problem with Benvenuti winning the decision. I've seen Art look better, but he went the distance with the world's middleweight champion with one leg. He could have beaten Benvenuti had his knee been all right."

Benvenuti also won a decision in '66 over Ferd in Rome. He was one of eight opponents the Hernandezes had in common, and when one of the brothers did better against somebody than the other, Art said, he'd tease his brother by bragging, "Ha, ha, I beat him and you didn't!"

While Art had the laugh on Ferd in the case of junior middleweight contender Stan Harrington, it turned out to be a hollow one. Harrington, who decisioned Ferd in '65, had lost to Art earlier that year. The winner of the latter fight was promised a match for the 154-pound title, but it was Harrington, not Art, who got the crack at the belt.

"I was devastated," recalled Hernandez.

Lovgren remembers hearing Hernandez tell his manager, Dick Noland, "Hey, if I get beat in Omaha, give that guy the decision. I been too many times on the other end in the other guy's hometown."

In early-'65, Art went to Miami Beach to fight former British Empire middleweight champion Gomeo Brennan, then the third-ranked contender. In spite of not having full use of his left arm, which swelled up alarmingly after blood was drawn the day before, Hernandez came within a vote of winning a split decision.

"He was Angelo Dundee's fighter, and to beat one of Angelo's fighters in Florida, you'd have to kill him," said Hernandez. "I was a boxer, not a murderer."

Hernandez subsequently avenged that defeat, as well as one that resulted in the worst injury he incurred in boxing, when future light heavyweight title challenger Kelly Burden butted open a cut over his left eye that stopped their 1966 fight in the third round and required 44 stitches. Hernandez twice outpointed Burden after that.

Of the 19 losses on his overall record of 45-19-2 (12), Art reversed seven in rematches. But he was never able to get a return fight against former welterweight and middleweight champion Emile Griffith, whom Hernandez seemed to clearly beat in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on August 15, 1969.

"I thought I beat him at least six out of 10 rounds," said Hernandez. "The local judges voted for him and his own New York referee, Lew Eskin, voted for me."

Respected Midwestern boxing expert George D. Blair was ringside that night, sitting next to one of the judges.

"I don't know what fight he was watching," said Blair, "but it was not the same fight I saw. I thought Hernandez won by a couple of points."

Meanwhile, Ferd continued to climb the middleweight ladder himself. In July '66, he drew with Jose Gonzalez in a 12-rounder for the WBA's American middleweight title. The next year, Ferd beat Gonzalez in a rematch and, in the only twin-bill he ever shared with Art, lost a 10-rounder to former welterweight champ Luis Rodriguez in Oakland, California. Art dropped a decision

that night to local kayo artist Jimmy Lester.

The brothers were best friends, but decided early on it was better to pursue their careers in separate venues.

"We get along too well," Art said in '67. "We fought for about six months together out of Omaha, and there was hardly a night of training."

Art fought a few times in Las Vegas, but didn't like it.

"In the first place, it was too hot," said Art. "In the second place, those bars never closed."

"You can believe me, if he was with Ferd, there was some serious drinking going on," said Lovgren.

Lovgren recalled when Art took the Nebraska Golden Gloves team to the national tournament, which happened to be in Las Vegas that year. After partying with Ferd all week, Art returned home, where he had a rematch with Lester, who had knocked out 30 of the 39 men he'd beaten, in just over two weeks.

"Art was literally poured out of the plane," said Lovgren, who was at the airport with Noland.

"There's no way Art can be ready to fight Lester in 19 days," a distressed Noland told him, to which Lovgren replied, "I never say 'never' about Art Hernandez."

In one of the best fights ever seen in Omaha, Hernandez boxed superbly to take a close decision over "The Bayview Blaster."

In 1968, a detached retina ended Ferd's career at 33-9-4 (7). He went on to become a popular boxing referee in his adopted hometown.

Art's high-water mark was two years later, when he beat Lester, won the NABF middleweight title by stopping Nate Williams (in what Hernandez recalls as his best fight ever), and, in perhaps the most eye-popping development in the career of the slick boxing but light hitting contender, knocked out three opponents in a row—Williams, Duane Horseman (who'd been stopped only once before in 64 fights), and Mexico's Sal Martinez.

What had gotten into him?

"I don't know, man," said Hernandez, laughing.

He lost the NABF title to former junior middleweight champion Denny Moyer in Las Vegas the next year (after spending the eve of the fight out on the town with Ferd), but regained it from Moyer in '72. But a world title shot never came, and in '73, an older, slower Hernandez was stopped successively by Bennie Briscoe, Jean-Claude Bouttier, and Tony Licata, ranked numbers one, two, and 10, respectively, in the middleweight class.

"I couldn't believe I was so old then," said Hernandez. "Licata jabbed the hell out of me, and I couldn't get out of the way."

So he got out of the ring instead, and for the next quarter-century worked as chief of security at Douglas County Hospital in Omaha.

Meanwhile, the youngest of the four Hernandez brothers, Dale, born in 1951, took over the family fighting mantle. (Chuck fought as a welterweight with mixed results from '67-'72). Dale was a talented junior welter who compiled a 37-8 (14) record in a career that went to 1982.

About three years ago, Art fell off a roof and crushed his left ankle so badly that eventually the leg was amputated below the knee. "I'm still getting around, and can go out and do all kinds of stuff. I just can't do what I used to," he said.

Even that wasn't as hard a blow as the one Art took a year earlier.

Ferd was ill in Las Vegas with chronic liver disease. Art and his wife, Mary, a registered nurse, brought him to Omaha to be with them.

At the airport, "I didn't even know it was him," Art said. "He had lost so much weight. We made him comfortable. He was here three weeks before he died. When that happened, oh man, it was tough."

So is that nagging question: Who was the best middleweight Hernandez?

Lovgren unhesitantly votes for Art.

"Ferd was a great fighter, but in my opinion, Art would have beaten him," he said. "I don't think we'll ever see another Art Hernandez in Omaha. He was something special. There are some people who pretend they're fighters, but Art was a fighter to the *nth* degree. He sure as hell should have had a world title shot."

Not surprisingly, Art dissents, at least so far as comparisons with his brother go.

"Ferd always told people I was the best in the family," he said. "But I wasn't; he was."

They might have found out once and for all back in 1967, when that all-Hernandez centennial match was proposed. Even old Pete said it was okay with him. But then, according to Art, an even higher power put a stop to it.

"Mom said no." ■

Art with his sons Art Jr. (left) and Dale in a photo taken near the end of his pro career. Despite beating many top-notch fighters, Hernandez never got a world title shot.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Kirk Johnson KO 4 Oleg Maskaev
Mount Whitaker KO 2 Robert Davis
Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 6 Mike Williams
Lamon Brewster KO 1 Val Smith
David Bostice W 10 Ed Mahone
Vaughn Bean W 8 Robert Smith
Obed Sullivan KO 3 Don Normand
Terrance Lewis W 10 Al Cole
Nate Jones W 12 Derrick Banks
Danny Williams KO 6 Quinn Navarre
Jameel McCline W 8 Reynaldo Minus
David Defiagbon W 8 Louis Monaco
Gerald Nobles W 8 Agustin Corpus
Ray Austin KO 1 Ramon Hayes
Cisse Salif KO 1 Darrell Morgan
Charles Hatcher W 6 Andre Payne
Harold Sconiers D 6 Ron Brown
Yacine Kingbo KO 2 Tony Halme
Butterbean KO 3 Marcus Rhode

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Johnny Nelson KO 5 Adam Watt
Carl Thompson KO 2 Alexei Iliin
Louis Azille KO 1 Saul Montana
Jorge Castro KO 4 Marco Antonio Duarte
Will Taylor W 8 Tyrone Armstead
Bash Ali KO 7 Terry Ray
Ruediger May KO 3 Michael Kloetsch

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Byron Mitchell W 10 Vinson Durham
Julian Letterlough D 10 Sammy Ahmad
Julio Gonzalez KO 5 Jorge Amparo
Max Heyman D 10 Ed Dalton
Elvir Muriqi KO 5 Gary Campbell
Daniel Judah KO 5 Eric Starr
Anthony Hanshaw W 6 Ronald Boddie

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Bruno Girard W 12 Manuel Siaca
(Retains WBA Title)
James Butler KO 6 Jose Spearman
Andrei Schkalikov KO 8 Frederic Alvarez
Glen Johnson KO 6 Toks Owoh
Scott Pemberton KO 4 Levan Easley
James Crawford W 10 Carmine Tufano
Rudy Markussen KO 4 Pat Lawlor
Jacqui Frazier-Lyde KO 4 Darlene Sabo

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Junior lightweight bomber Acelino Freitas pounds Carlos Rios along the ropes

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
William Joppy W 12 Hassine Cherifi
(Retains WBA Title)
Armand Krajnc KO 6 Bert Schenk
Howard Eastman W 12 Sam Soliman
Jerry Elliott KO 9 Lorant Szabo
Lester Jacobs KO 8 Delroy Leslie
Carlos Bojorquez KO 4 Lloyd Weaver

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Harry Simon W 12 Rodney Jones
Alex Bunema W 10 Derrick Graham
Jose Rivera W 8 Tom Attardo
Maselino Masoe KO 6 Lionel Ortiz
Emil Baku KO 4 Anthony Perry

WELTERWEIGHTS
Ray Oliveira KO 7 Steve Larrimore
Thomas Damgaard KO 1 Luis Maysonet
Kofi Jantuah KO 3 Ojay Abrahams
Teddy Reid KO 2 Juan Carlos Rubio
Charles Murray KO 4 Gary Richardson
Cory Spinks KO 7 Jorge Vaca
Antonio Margarito KO 1 Jose Luis Benitez
Hector Quiroz W 8 Daniel Mendez
Michel Trabant KO 5 Rachid Ben Chaib
Michele Orlando W 10 Pasquale Perna
Roberto Duran Jr. KO 3 Porfirio Miranda

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Felix Flores
(Retains WBA Title)
Oktay Urkal W 12 Gabriel Mapouka
Eamonn Magee W 8 Pavel Melnikov
Wilfredo Negron KO 5 Edwin Vazquez
Ricky Hatton KO 5 Giuseppe Lauri
Ricky Quiles W 10 Mark Suarez
Salvatore Battaglia KO 5 Cristian Giantomassi
Larry O'Shields W 8 Chucky T
Justo Sencion W 6 Isander Lacen
Britt Van Buskirk W 6 Sumya Anani

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Jose Luis Castillo D 12 Stevie Johnston
(Retains WBC Title)
Alejandro Gonzalez W 10 Omar Bernal
Billy Irwin KO 1 Moises Pedroza
Julien Lorcy KO 3 Gianni Gelli
Israel Cardona KO 5 Matt Hill
Bobby Vanzie Ko 8 Laatchinel Hammond
Mtyenene Thambikosi W 12 Bruno Wartelle
Sungho Yuh KO 3 Yuji Watanabe
Martin Jacobs KO 8 Koko Tshamlambo
Julio Diaz KO 3 Gerardo Mijares
Antonio Ramirez KO 3 Terrance Churchwel

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Joel Casamayor KO 5 Radford Beasley
(Retains WBA Title)
Acelino Freitas KO 9 Carlos Rios
John Brown Tech. Draw 1 Javier Valadez
Steve Forbes W 12 David Santos
Jorge Paez W 10 Justo Sanchez
Roger Medal KO 8 Carlos Martinez
James Armah KO 9 Charles Shepherd
Zahir Raheem KO 1 Steve Rose

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Paulie Ayala W 12 Johnny Tapia
(Non-Title Bout)
David Murillo KO 7 Adarryl Johnson
David Toledo W 8 Rodolfo Blanco
Eugenio Gomez KO 1 Dino Olivetti
Emanuel Lucero W 10 Rogers Mtagwa

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Lehlo Ledwaba KO 8 Eduardo Alvarez
(Retains IBF Title)
Enrique Sanchez KO 4 Juan Polo-Perez
Oscar Larios KO 1 Sammy Ventura
Danny Romero KO 2 Jorge Reyes
Carlos Contreras KO 9 Victor Rabanales
Salim Medjkoune KO 4 Mustapha Hame
Osamu Sato KO 4 Kyongsoo Chung
Fernando Velardez W 10 Edgar Jasso
Irichelle Duran KO 3 Marilyn Hernandez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Genaro Garcia W 12 Francisco Tejedor
Hugo Dianzo W 12 Evangelio Perez
Julio Zarate KO 10 Erik Lopez

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Leo Gamez KO 7 Hideki Todaka
(Wins WBA Title)
Diego Morales KO 7 Len Martinez
Jose Beranza KO 4 Leopoldo Arrocha
Debind Thapa KO 5 Julio Coronel

FLYWEIGHTS
Eric Morel W 12 Alberto Ontiveros
(Retains WBA Title)
Damaen Kelly W 12 Xolile Mbityi
Gerson Guerrero KO 7 Raul Juarez
Hussein Hussein KO 1 Sean Green
Jim Betts KO 2 Dave Coldwell

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Jorge Arce KO 5 Alfredo Virgen
Takayuki Korogi KO 8 Tatsuichi Hanayama

STRAWWEIGHTS
Hiroshi Matsumoto KO 2 Wanchai Sriprajan
Eric Ortiz KO 4 Emilio Palacios
Valentin Romero KO 12 Javier Angeles
Jairo Arango W 10 Domingo Guillen

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

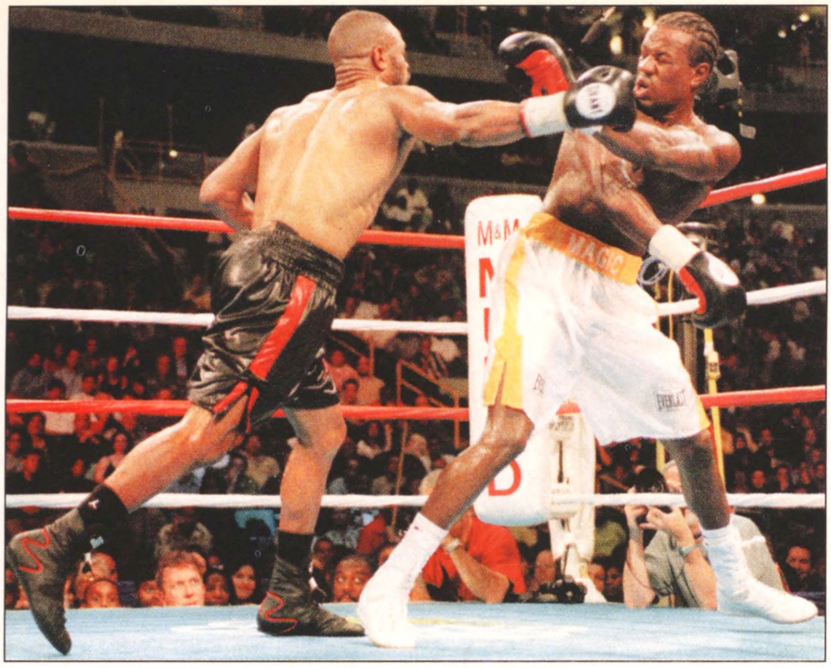
It would have been understandable for IBF junior lightweight champion Diego Corrales to have an off-day. There were accusations swirling around him that he had beaten his wife, and there was related controversy over promoter Bob Arum going ahead with Corrales' defense against Angel Manfredy despite the allegations. He was booed by much of the crowd when he entered the ring at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas, and he was up against a smart, experienced veteran who was sure to make him work for his victory. If ever Corrales was ripe to be upset, it was on this night.

But once the fight started, "Chico" shut out his personal problems, focused intensely on Manfredy, and dominated him more completely than anyone could have expected. The punishment was unrelenting until the referee finally came to Manfredy's rescue late in round three, after three knockdowns had been scored and the former "El Diablo's" fire had been extinguished.

Apparently, Corrales didn't have an off-day. Or at least the rest of the fighters around his weight better hope he didn't, because if this wasn't Corrales at his best, then just imagine what an on-day would look like.

• • • •

Diego Corrales



Jones wings a right at defensive Harding

Roy Jones KO 10 Eric Harding

New Orleans, Louisiana: This undisputed light heavyweight title bout was dubbed "Bourbon Street Brawl." It should've been called "Bourbon Street Bawl," as most spectators were bored to tears. In fact, some might have needed a fifth of bourbon to make it through this painful display by the supposed best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, who did more harm than help to his sagging reputation.

Make no mistake, Harding, 19-1-1 (6), was a worthy challenger who gave Jones, 43-1 (35), one heck of a time. While it was believed he didn't have the dynamite in his gloves to threaten the champion, Harding showed otherwise. The southpaw possesses deceptive power, particularly in the right hook, and his whistling counters had Jones wary all night.

Harding's competitive showing made it all the more of a shame that a torn biceps in his left arm ended it early. Trainer Al Gavin, despite the fact that Harding had been fighting with the injury since the second round, pulled the plug after the 10th. Harding offered no protest at the time the fight was stopped, and he attributed the injury to getting punched in the arm by Jones while in the act of punching.

Jones, 175, Pensacola, Florida, fought with virtually no passion for the first eight rounds, and only seemed to show fire after the crowd had shifted allegiance and was chanting for Harding. Jones' aggression also came only after he sensed that Harding, 175, was a tired, one-armed fighter who had given up on winning.

There were few hard punches landed, and this was hardly worthy of the $34.95 pay-per-view price tag. While it was expected for Harding, 27, to be cautious, Jones, 31, disappointed by showing his reluctance and safety-first style against a man with just six knockouts. Instead, the first two rounds were a posing contest, and heavy boos rained down from the New Orleans Arena crowd.

Harding's best round was the eighth, which he won on all scorecards, when he landed a pair of jarring right hooks on Jones' cheek as he had him pinned against the ropes. Harding also didn't fall for any of Jones' tricks and actually won the feinting game in the earlier rounds.

In the ninth, when the crowd showed favoritism to Harding, East Hartford, Connecticut, Jones responded with a stiff right hand. The challenger retaliated with his last significant punch on the night, a shotgun jab to the champion's chin.

When it was over, Jones was just relieved to get through it. He admitted he was not as sharp and did not train as hard for Harding, the IBF mandatory challenger, because he was involved in the actual promoting of the card.

"Not a lot of guys are going to beat Harding," Jones said. "He came out there and gave it his all. The crowd came to see a good show. Every night you can't give them a good show."

Jones also announced his intentions to move back down in weight to super middleweight, which he says is his natural weight. "If I move back to 168, then I'll end my career there," Jones said.

When asked about meeting Felix Trinidad, who has announced his desire to fight Jones at that weight, Jones replied, "Then that'll be the end of his career there."

Jones had pulled away on the scorecards and was leading by two, four, and six points after the 10th. The referee was Johnny Femia Jr. (USA).

Television: TVKO
Promoter: Murad Muhammad
(9-9-00)
Johnnie Whitehead

Derrick Gainer KO 11 Freddie Norwood

New Orleans, Louisiana: In his second world title shot in six months, Pensacola, Florida, native and Roy Jones protege Gainer finally got over the hump by toppling longtime champion Norwood in bizarre fashion for the WBA featherweight belt on the Jones-Harding undercard. Norwood's tactics were despicable throughout, and when referee Paul Sita (USA) failed to control the fouling, Gainer took matters into his own hands and folded Norwood, St. Louis, Missouri, with a pair of brutal left uppercuts to the groin in round 11. While the New Orleans Arena crowd actually cheered, Norwood was singing soprano on the canvas, but instead of getting the disqualifica-

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Gainer backs Norwood up with a right hook

tion win he appeared to be looking for, it was Gainer, 36-5 (23), who was declared the TKO winner.

Sita, who was trying to separate the fighters and was admittedly out of position—in fact, he was holding Norwood's arms back when the final punches landed—never saw how illegal the shots were. Regardless, it was Norwood who initiated the fouling, and he died by his own sword. As he barreled in—head first—Norwood hit Gainer wherever he could, and too often that was on the brain stem, the base of the spine, the thigh, the hip, or the groin. Of the 110 punches he supposedly landed according to CompuBox, it seemed at least half of them were illegal.

Norwood's frustration started at the weigh-in, when he couldn't make 126 pounds, officially scaling 127¾ on his first try. He was forced to vacate the WBA belt for the second time in his tumultuous career. His problems were compounded when he found he couldn't get past the southpaw Gainer's jab and ended up on the canvas in the second round courtesy of a straight left.

Norwood, 37-1-1 (21), wasn't hurt badly, but the stage was set for "Li'l Hagler's" demise. Norwood wasn't the champ anymore, but his unbeaten record was at stake, and he'd be damned if he'd let Gainer walk away with the belt. Whenever he got Gainer on the ropes, Norwood would whip hooks to the body, and he was guilty of going low in every round. Sita, however, didn't deduct a point until the sixth—and somehow it was *Gainer*, not Norwood, who was penalized for retaliating with low blows of his own.

Gainer, 125, generally kept his arms high and elbows in and countered with perfectly timed uppercuts whenever his fellow southpaw got inside. Just when Norwood, 30, thought he was making some headway, he found himself sprawled on the canvas again in the ninth—and this time he was definitely hurt—after a left hook and right uppercut. Gainer, 28, failed to press the action, perhaps remembering how he got aggressive and was kayoed by Diego Corrales in March when he challenged for the IBF 130-pound title, and let Norwood off the hook.

The end came at 1:56 of the 11th, with Sita claiming Norwood wasn't willing to continue after being floored by the low blow. Confused and contradicting himself at every turn, Sita said he was giving Norwood a 20-count for the low blow (which he said he didn't see) and then if Norwood made it up he would have given him up to five minutes to recover. "He made no attempt to get up," said Sita, though Norwood not only attempted to get up—he *did* get up, at the count of 13. Why the 20-count was even being used was a mystery to everyone.

Gainer, who was ahead on all three scorecards at the time of the stoppage, initially said he would give the former champion a rematch, but a few days later reconsidered. "The only way I ever get in the ring with him again is if he's champion or the number-one contender," Gainer said. "If he came to me man to man and said he'd fight me clean, I'd fight him. But I don't think that's going to happen."

Television: TVKO

Promoter: Murad Muhammad

(9-9-00)

Johnnie Whitehead

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

Barrera finds Valbuena's face with a jab

Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Jose Luis Valbuena

New Orleans, Louisiana: What was supposed to be a tuneup for greater things to come turned into a pitched battle for Barrera, 51-3 (37), on the undercard of Jones-Harding at the New Orleans Arena. Even though Barrera won unanimously, it wasn't the blowout most people anticipated, and many left re-evaluating his chances should he face Naseem Hamed.

The cocky Valbuena, 18-2-1 (10), didn't come to lie down, and every time he seemed on the verge of succumbing to the Mexican's attacks, he'd muster flurries of his own and show how easy it is to hit Barrera. When the final bell sounded, Barrera threw up his hands in frustration with his own performance.

Barrera, 120, coming off a controversial points loss to Erik Morales in February and hoping to land a shot at Hamed in the near future, wanted to look more impressive than this. He wanted it to be a devastatingly short night, and it looked like it might be early on, as the Mexican was by far the physically stronger of the two, and he packed more pop in his punches. From the first round on, he bull-rushed the pesky Venezuelan and raked his flanks with brutal uppercuts and hooks, often doubling and tripling them.

That made Valbuena, 120½, defensive-minded and reluctant to punch at first, but by the third round, the southpaw began to trade on even terms in the inside exchanges. Barrera's still were the harder shots, but in terms of quantity, Valbuena got the job done and won the round on all three judges' scorecards.

Valbuena, 26, suddenly had the confidence that he belonged and began taking more chances. He became less conventional in his form and chose to freestyle with some success, but Barrera, 26, launched enough bombs to the solar plexus to thwart his rallies.

The eighth was perhaps Valbuena's best round. He fought the way he needed to from the first bell—at a distance—and kept Barrera at bay with a long jab. He even managed to back up the Mexican for the first time and negated his body attack.

Barrera failed to use an effective jab—according to CompuBox,

he landed 19 out of 194 thrown—but still re-asserted himself in the 10th, landing a pair of hooks high on Valbuena's head that staggered him at the bell. Barrera wasn't content for a points win and tried his best to get a knockout in the final stanza. But it never came, and he swatted his arms at the sound of the final bell.

Although he had been outworked in terms of punches thrown (846-611), Barrera won unanimously. Judge Thomas Miller (USA) had it 115-113, Russell Naquin (USA) saw it 117-111, and Kenny Saintes (USA) scored it 116-112. The referee was Elmo Adolph (USA).

Television: TVKO
Promoter: Murad Muhammad
(9-9-00)
Johnnie Whitehead

Sven Ottke W 12 Charles Brewer

Magdeburg, Germany: Brewer had nursed the wounds of a perceived injustice for almost two years when he climbed into the ring at the Boerdeland Hall to face the man he felt should never have been awarded the IBF super middleweight belt. But the more motivated of the two turned out to be Ottke, 168, Germany, who fought more aggressively than in their October 1998 encounter to claim the double over the Philadelphia fighter and retain the title for the seventh time, via split decision.

Low blows and headbutts marred the 12 rounds, and American referee Brian Garry had a difficult evening. At one point he cried, "Come on fellas, this ain't a wrestlin' match." It did little good, as the bitterness between the two tainted their strategies.

"Ottke is not with the elite," rapped Brewer after his second defeat by the German. "He'd never have won the first fight if it had taken place in any other country but his own. This decision was still a little questionable, but he fought a good fight. I wasn't happy with the fight I fought."

German judge Arthur Ellensohn and Spain's Manuel Maritxalar scored 116-112 and 116-111, respectively, for Ottke. American Shaffeeg Rasheed made it 114-113 for Brewer. THE RING scored 115-113 for Ottke.

"I did enough to win and am happy I have set the record straight once and for all with Brewer," said the German. "I felt a lot better this time and I still feel pretty fresh."

The 30-year-old Brewer, 168, had boxed only seven rounds in the two years following his controversial defeat by Ottke, 20-0 (2), and may have regretted not remaining more active against a higher standard of opponent as he failed to set a strong enough pace. Ottke settled comfortably into a rhythm, though a low blow in the sixth stopped him in his tracks momentarily.

A clash of heads in the eighth left the American with a gash above his left eye, and two rounds later he had a point deducted for throwing two blows after the referee had called on them to break. Down the stretch, Brewer, 35-7 (25), inexplicably produced less and less while the champion continued to be sharp and focused, going toe-to-toe with the supposedly harder-hitting Brewer and winning the exchanges despite his own supposed lack of firepower. Ottke, 33, may now face WBC champion Dingaan Thobela of South Africa in a December super middleweight unification bout in Germany.

Promoter: Wilfried Sauerland
(9-2-00)
Brian Doogan

Diego Corrales KO 3 Angel Manfredy

El Paso, Texas: With allegations of spousal abuse swirling around him, IBF junior lightweight champion "Chico" Corrales made his fourth title defense, rekindling memories of legendary powerhitters Thomas Hearns and Alexis Arguello with a frightening third-round knockout of highly regarded Manfredy before 5,000 boisterous fans at the Don Haskins Center. It was as stunning as it was brutal, and Corrales, 33-0 (27), set up a possible future showdown with Floyd Mayweather while indicating that he might just join Hearns and Arguello someday in all-time great status.

As referee Jerry McKenzie (USA) brought champion and challenger together for the prefight instructions, it was obvious Manfredy had a formidable challenge in front of him. Corrales, who stands a menacing six-feet tall, towered over the 5'6" Manfredy. It would only get worse from there for the former "El Diablo."

Early in the first round, Corrales, 129¾, Sacramento, California, sent Manfredy, 130, Gary, Indiana, to the deck with the first power-punch he threw: a wicked counter left that bounced off Manfredy's chin and echoed off the arena walls. Manfredy, 25, fell as if hit with a baseball bat, but somehow he found his feet just a couple of seconds into the count. Corrales, 23, resumed by punishing the challenger with short, compact hooks and right hands until Manfredy was saved by the bell.

In the second, the courageous Manfredy jumped right back into the fight, rattling off solid combinations to the body capped with a stinging right uppercut. But it was obvious Manfredy couldn't hurt Corrales. The champion, meanwhile, patiently waited for openings. One came early in round three.

After Manfredy landed a nice combination to the body and another right uppercut to Corrales' chin, the champion returned fire

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Corrales goes on the attack against Manfredy

with a wicked left-right. A followup pair of rights to the body buckled Manfredy's knees, and a compact hook high off the temple sent him down. He was down again from a sharp right hand moments later, and Corrales finished him with a steady dose of everything: left hooks, right hands, uppercuts, all delivered with pinpoint accuracy. McKenzie rescued Manfredy at 2:38 of the round.

"After the first knockdown, I made up my mind that I better go out, finish the job, and finish it as quick as possible," Corrales said. "In the third round, I figured he'd be waiting for the right hand, but the right hand was just easier to land."

Afterward, Manfredy, 33-5-1 (26), was gracious but still hurt. He took the beating of his life.

"He caught me with a couple of good shots," Manfredy said. "His reach didn't bother me. He's a beautiful fighter. But I just didn't feel right. I felt spacey."

Manfredy, who looked to have his usual speed and know-how, was simply outgunned. The power differential was obvious from the outset, a junior lightweight against a junior welterweight, with Corrales hurting Manfredy with everything he threw.

Now, Corrales must address his considerable out-of-the ring troubles. After disposing of Manfredy, he said the truth would come out in time. He also gave up the IBF belt a few weeks later and said he wants Mayweather at 135. If Corrales does indeed escape his legal troubles, it could be a Hearns-Sugar Ray Leonard for the new millennium.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Top Rank
(9-2-00)
Matthew Aguilar

Masamori Tokuyama W 12 In Joo Cho

Osaka, Japan: Tokuyama, 114¾, became the first North Korean in boxing history to win a world title, as he dropped WBC super fly champ Cho, 115, South Korea, in the fourth round and pounded out an unexpectedly lopsided decision over 12 hot frames. Some 7,000 spectators, the majority of whom were North Koreans living in Japan, were in attendance at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium to see the great upset.

The scoring was as follows: Lou Filippo (USA) had it 119-107, Henry Elesperu (USA) saw it 117-109, and Dalby Shirley (USA) turned in a 116-110 card, all for Tokuyama, 22-2-1 (5). The previously unbeaten Cho, making his sixth defense, dropped to 18-1 (7).

Tokuyama got off to a very good start by aggressively attacking the cautious champ with sharp jabs, one-twos, and left hooks. He dominated the first three rounds by maintaining his furious pace, and opened a cut over Cho's left eyebrow with a three-punch combination in the second.

Tokuyama's dominance became even more pronounced in the fourth when the challenger landed a well-timed left-right combination, dropping Cho on the seat of his trunks in the closing seconds of the round. The groggy champ barely made it back to his feet and was rescued by the bell.

The champ desperately attacked in the fifth, but couldn't catch his faster opponent. Tokuyama was in command in the sixth through ninth rounds with his fine display of accurate jabs and one-two combos that caused the champ's face to swell significantly. Cho furiously attempted to rally in the closing rounds, but Tokuyama remained elusive. A nasty collision of heads occurred in the 11th, and Cho was left with blood streaming down his face. Referee Lupe Garcia (Mexico) took a point from Tokuyama in accordance with the WBC's accidental-headbutt rule. Still, Tokuyama was in control the last two rounds despite Cho's fierce retaliations.

It was a great surprise that the prohibitive favorite Cho, a two-time conqueror of highly regarded Gerry Penalosa, lost his belt to the unheralded Tokuyama, but it's in the ring that the unlikely often happens. Another unique occurrence took place prior to the main event, when, instead of the national anthems being performed, the famous song asking for unification of the divided nation was sung together by a North Korean and a South Korean.

Promoter: Kanazawa Promotions
(8-27-00)
Joe Koizumi

William Joppy W 12 Hassine Cherifi

Las Vegas, Nevada: With a systematic destruction of former WBC champion Cherifi at the MGM Grand Garden, Joppy presented perhaps his most convincing argument yet that he, not Bernard Hopkins, deserves consideration as the world's top middleweight. Joppy made the fourth defense of his second reign as WBA champion with a unanimous decision, winning 11 of 12 rounds on one judge's card and 10 of 12 on the other two.

The fight was never close, and it showed on the face of Cherifi, 30-4-1 (19), who had to go to a local hospital following the bout for a checkup. "I kept wondering what was holding the guy up," Joppy, 31-1-1 (23), said.

Joppy was disappointed at having to fight Cherifi. For weeks, he had campaigned for a fight against either WBC champion Keith Holmes or IBF champ Hopkins. Neither, though, came to terms,

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Joppy cracks game Cherifi with a right

which left Joppy shaking his head. Cherifi clearly was not in his class, as he was pummeled from beginning to end, but Joppy said Cherifi had one thing that Holmes and Hopkins lack: courage.

"I have to give that guy a lot of credit because he really has a lot of guts and he was here to fight," Joppy said. "That's what I want, to get in there with guys who want to fight. This other bull, I don't have time for that."

Cherifi, 159, France, had to know he was in for a long night shortly after the opening bell sounded. About a minute into the fight, Joppy, 160, Seabrook, Maryland, rocked Cherifi with a right uppercut and followed it with a solid three-punch combination. Throughout the fight, Cherifi was active and threw a lot of punches, but Joppy was able to pick most of them off. Those that got through had little on them and did nothing to Joppy.

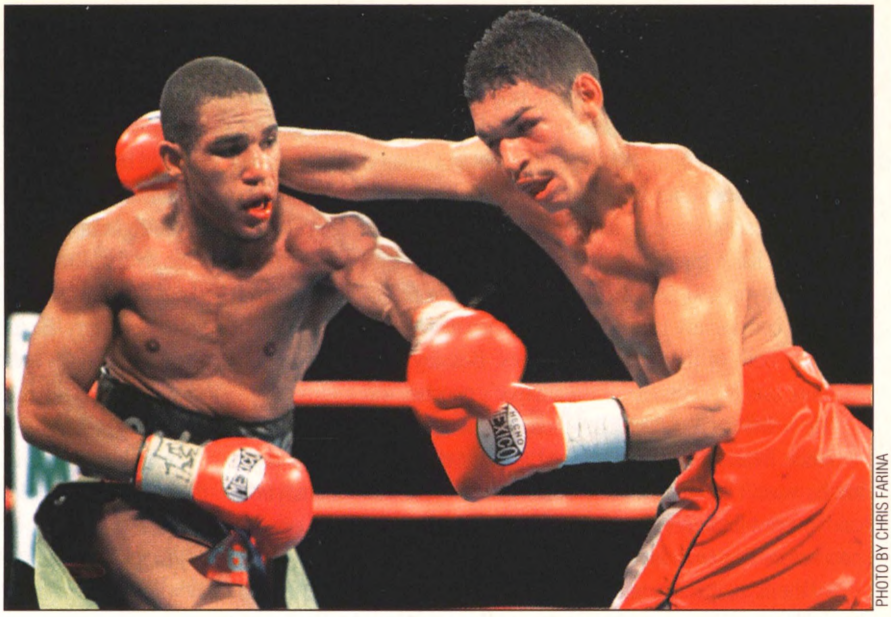


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Mitchell slips a right and nails Flores with a left

The champion, meanwhile, was stunning Cherifi with just about everything he threw. He forced Cherifi to take a knee twice, once in the eighth and once in the ninth. As the bell sounded to end the ninth, Joppy leaped into the air and threw a left-right combination that nearly sent the Frenchman to the mat again. Cherifi grabbed the ropes as he was about 80 percent of the way down and hauled himself back up, and referee Joe Cortez (USA) elected not to call it a knockdown.

It was that kind of night for Cherifi, who lavished praise on Joppy.

"He's strong and quick and a very smart fighter," Cherifi, 32, said.

Joppy poured it on at the end and was raining punches upon Cherifi, who was clearly determined to remain vertical until the final bell. The only knock on the 30-year-old Joppy could have been his inability to put Cherifi away, but this was still a night to remember for the champion from the Washington, D.C, area. Judges Jerry Roth (USA) and Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) both scored it 118-107, and Duane Ford (USA) had it 119-107.

"For years and years, the middleweight division was the place to be," Joppy said. "You think over the years to guys like Marvin Hagler, Ray Robinson, and you think of the middleweights. I think it's time we got back to that."

Television: Showtime
Promoter: Don King Productions
(9-16-00)
Kevin Iole

Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Felix Flores

Las Vegas, Nevada: Mitchell talked before the fight of unifying the 140-pound championships, moving up to welterweight to fight Shane Mosley, and then retiring to finish a business degree at the University of Maryland. The WBA super lightweight champ took the first tiny steps toward his goals by scoring a competitive but clear-cut decision over Flores at the MGM Grand Garden in his first fight in 10 months. Mitchell retained the title for the fourth time despite getting knocked down in round four, the first time in six years he had hit the mat.

Mitchell, 139, Tacoma Park, Maryland, had three times as many fights as Flores, 139½, Puerto Rico, and, for the most part, it showed, as the quicker champion used his skills to pepper Flores with hard combinations. Flores was the pursuer and tried to make the fight a brawl, but Mitchell was far too quick and smart. Mitchell would often land a three- or four-punch combination before Flores could get anything off.

The 24-year-old Flores was powerful, though, and nearly used that power to end the fight late in the fourth. Mitchell got lazy and didn't cover up after throwing a hook. Flores knocked Mitchell loopy with a left uppercut and followed with a right to the body and then to the head. Mitchell went down, but was up just a few seconds into the count of referee Tony Weeks (USA) and was saved by the bell before Flores could begin to follow up.

"I got kind of lazy, and he caught me with a good shot," Mitchell, 30, said. "First, he stunned me. Then he caught me. But it happens to the best of fighters. It happened to Muhammad Ali. It happened to Sugar Ray Leonard, and it happened to Ray Robinson. He wasn't a hard puncher. He just caught me."

Mitchell came back in the fifth and moved to clear his head. After that, he was in complete control, rarely getting in trouble while pounding Flores consistently. In the ninth round, Flores, 15-2 (11), began to mount a rally when he hit Mitchell with a straight right hand, but the champion immediately fought back with a blizzard of punches. In the end, there was no doubt who won the fight, as Patricia Jarman-Manning (USA) and Paul Smith (USA) both scored it 116-111, and Gonzalo Riveras (Venezuela) had it 116-113.

"I did what I had to do," said Mitchell, 47-2 (29), who earned $175,000. "I boxed. I stayed off almost a year, and I came in against a tough opponent. He was only 15-1, but he was tough."

Television: Showtime
Promoter: Don King Productions
(9-16-00)
Kevin Iole

Joel Casamayor KO 5 Radford Beasley

Las Vegas, Nevada: Casamayor saw Floyd Mayweather, the WBC super featherweight champion, sitting ringside for his first WBA 130-pound title defense, against Beasley at the MGM Grand, and knew he needed to do something big. The undefeated Cuban defector came through, overwhelming the previously unbeaten Beasley with crisp, sharp punches and stopping him in the fifth round.

Beasley has a big right hand and was loading it up from the start. But Casamayor, 130, Miami, Florida, was able to neutralize Beasley's power by consistently landing a snapping jab that eventually tore open cuts over both of the challenger's eyes. Beasley, 129½, St. Louis, Missouri, said the crispness of Casamayor's punches was a surprise.

"He was more accurate than I thought," Beasley said.

While Beasley, 29, made a good account of himself, it was clear that he wasn't in Casamayor's class. The 29-year-old Casamayor's hands were blindingly fast and he often had already landed several shots before Beasley could react.

By the fifth, the accumulation of punches was having its effect on the challenger, who was wobbling around the ring, firing back, but eating a dangerous amount of leather. Beasley, 19-1 (13), didn't go down, but he staggered around the ring like a drunk until referee Vic Drakulich (USA) mercifully halted it at the 52-second mark.

"I knew I could get those shots in when he was trying to get that right hand going," said Casamayor, 23-0 (14), who called out Mayweather after the fight. "I just decided to take what was there and I was able to get him out of there."

His trainer, Joe Goossen, said he is becoming convinced that Casamayor could edge Mayweather. Goossen said Casamayor, a Cuban defector, is still improving daily in the gym.

"The difference between the two is that Mayweather is very shy about throwing punches," Goossen said. "He just doesn't throw a lot. Joel took this guy [Beasley] apart. He cut him up a little, and then I sent him in to finish the job. He'll let them go.

"He'll put himself in harm's way. He got hit with a couple of hooks in those flurries, but he has a solid chin and a big heart and he is not afraid to fight you. I wonder about that with Mayweather."

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(9-16-00)

Kevin Iole

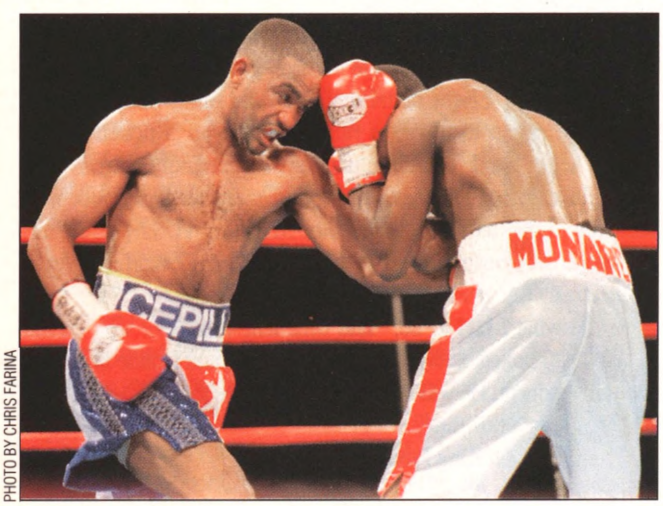


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Casamayor digs to Beasley's body

Willie Jorrin W 12 Michael Brodie

Manchester, England: Jubilation for Jorrin, bitterness for Brodie. Controversy reigned at Bowlers Arena after a majority 12-round decision gave the visiting American the WBC super bantamweight title vacated by Erik Morales.

Jorrin, 122, Sacramento, California, scored the only knockdown of the fight in the 10th round, but the vast majority of observers felt strongly that Brodie, 122, England, was robbed.

"I don't think a decision has ever left me more confused," said promoter Barry Hearn. "This was one of the most disgraceful decisions ever seen in a British ring."

Former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan was a ringside pundit for Sky Television, who broadcast the fight in Britain. "It seems very suspicious," he said. "Something scurrilous went on there. It was disgraceful and it doesn't do anything for your faith in boxing."

Hometown or not, Brodie seemed to have done more than enough to warrant the decision. Justifiably, he felt he had the edge after three rounds. He was quickly into his stride with two-handed shots to the head and body, and although Jorrin countered well and was the more accurate puncher, the punch stats showed Brodie way out in front even by that early stage.

By the sixth round, the fight had become more compelling, with 26-year-old Brodie looking the more powerful of the two, but 30-year-old Jorrin producing perhaps the better technical work. Both fighters were warned by British referee Richie Davies after a clash of heads in the eighth before Brodie landed a tremendous five-punch combination. In the ninth, Brodie struck again with hooks and two solid rights, though Jorrin retaliated with a succession of long lefts.

The American's best moment came in the 10th when a series of hard shots culminating in a devastating right put Brodie down for the mandatory eight-count. The bell saved him from more prolonged discomfort. But Brodie did come back strongly over the final two rounds and was convinced at the final bell that the decision would be his.

Yet Italy's Franco Ciminale scored 115-112 for Jorrin, and Mexico's Ray Solis had it 116-112 for the American. Belgium's Bob Logist could not separate them, handing in a 114-114 tally. THE RING saw it 115-113 for Brodie.

"I know I am the champion. Everyone knows who the champion is," declared a distraught Brodie, 29-1 (20).

Jorrin, 27-0 (12), said he would give him a rematch—but only in Sacramento.

"It was a close affair, but I thought I just pulled away toward the end and the knockdown sealed it," he said. "Sacramento is my hometown and I came to Brodie's backyard to win the title. Don Chargin is my promoter and has the last word, but I would love to make my first title defense at home. I told everyone I could do this. He was a strong fighter, but I wasn't going to be denied."

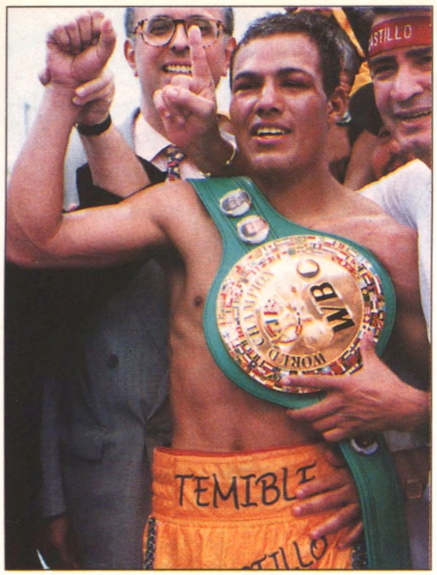
Promoter: Matchroom

(9-9-00)

Brian Doogan

Jose Luis Castillo D 12 Stevie Johnston

Denver, Colorado: When Johnston lost the WBC lightweight title to Castillo last June, most thought he'd simply had a bad day and that he would regain the belt in a rematch, much the same way



Castillo drew with Johnston to retain the belt he won in June

he had after losing to Cesar Bazan in June 1998. But after Castillo retained the title via majority draw before approximately 10,000 of Johnston's hometown fans at the Pepsi Arena, it looks like all the tough fights are beginning to catch up with the diminutive southpaw.

Johnston, 27, admitted he fought the wrong fight the first time against Castillo, when he stood inside and traded with the stronger man. But it soon became apparent in the rematch that the local favorite no longer has the legs or vitality to produce the masterful boxing exhibitions that had twice carried him to the top of the 135-pound division.

Castillo, 41-4-1 (37), found a home for his right uppercut in the opening round, and although he was clipped by a crisp left during the early moments of the second, the Mexican champion did a good job of avoiding Johnston's southpaw jabs and continued to do so throughout the contest. Another solid left jarred Castillo near the end of the round, but the challenger's right eye was already starting to swell.

Both had their moments: Castillo, who enjoyed a four-inch advantage at 5'9", flurried near the end of the third, and Johnston landed a stiff right-left in the fourth, only to be countered by a left hook. But regardless of how hard Johnston tried, he was forced to fight on the inside, which was definitely Castillo's turf.

There was lots of clinching and head bumping, but Castillo's left hook to the body was doing most of the damage. Johnston, whose nose was bleeding by the seventh, showed plenty of grit, but just didn't have enough zip to outwork his adversary in the trenches. He got up on his toes the first half of the ninth, but couldn't keep it up and was soon flat-footed again, grinding away on the inside.

Every time it seemed like Johnston, 30-2-1 (15), might take control, the 26-year-old Castillo got back on top with harder, more hurtful punches. He rattled Johnston with a right-left-right in the 11th, and despite the ex-champ's desperate attempt to salvage victory in the final round, punctuated the fight with a four-punch volley.

Due to an error in arithmetic, Johnston left the ring thinking he'd regained the title on a split decision, only to be informed minutes later that Castillo was still champion. Originally, the score of judge Ken Morita (USA) was announced as 115-114 in favor of Johnston, but a recalculation showed he had actually scored the fight even, 114-114. Daniel Van De Wiele (Belgium) *did* score it for Johnston 115-114, but that wasn't enough, as John Keane (England) also had it 114-114, making it a majority draw. THE RING agreed with the official verdict, also scoring it 114-114.

"It was a tough fight, but I thought I pulled it out," said Johnston, who indicated before the fight that he might retire if he lost. "I thought Castillo won only one round, but the judges didn't see it that way."

"The first fight I trained for three weeks and I clearly won," said Castillo. "This time I trained for eight weeks and I was much more confident. I said I would win in eight rounds, but Johnston is a great boxer."

Referee: Richard Steele (USA)
Television: ESPN2
Promoter: Top Rank
(9-15-00)

Bruno Girard W 12 Manuel Siaca

Chateauroux, France: Fighting with a damaged right shoulder from the fourth round on, Girard, 167½, France, gutted it out to repel the challenge of Puerto Rican Siaca, also 167½, and retained the WBA super middleweight title by split decision in a marquee erected in his hometown filled with 5,500 enthusiastic supporters. It was Girard's first title defense.

The scoring of the three judges was remarkable. Venezuelan official Antonio Requena made it 117-113 for the challenger, while Germany's Arthur Ellensohn scored 117-111 for the champion, an amazing 10-point discrepancy. Spain's Bartolme Torralba had it closer at 116-113 for Girard, who defeated American Byron Mitchell in April to claim the title. THE RING scored 115-113 for Girard, though it was by no means a compelling battle.

His hands held high, Girard, 29, struggled to get past the long arms of Siaca and lost the first round. He bounced back in the second and third, but a hard right to the upper part of his left arm in round four brought pain immediately to the Frenchman, and from that point on it was a real struggle.

"After round five, Bruno was really handicapped by the injury to his left arm," said trainer Marceau Lemelle. "He showed a tremendous heart to fight on so hard in those conditions."

Girard admitted: "I was really in pain, but I knew I just had to fight on in front of all those people. He had a good jab and it was tough to get inside. Also he hit real hard. But I just kept at it. There are no easy fights at this level."

Siaca, 24, made it more difficult in the sixth by firing some solid combinations, but by the next round showed signs of tiring. He had never been 12 rounds before. He rallied in the eighth, but Girard, 37-3-1 (5), kept his defense tight and outsmarted his challenger down the stretch, staying away for the final three minutes as he felt the decision was safely in the bag.

"I'm really disappointed," said Siaca, 15-2 (13). "I thought I did enough to win. Girard only moved around me. He never hurt me. But this is his hometown and that was enough to persuade the judges.

"I was not tired. It was my first time handling 12 rounds. But I trained hard. I slowed down the pace a little, just to finish strong in the 11th and 12th, but to no avail."

Girard says he wants to unify the super middleweight division, but there are much stronger champions out there he would be best advised to stay away from.

Promoter: AB Stars Productions
(9-16-00)
Brian Doogan ■

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Bob Arum

(Continued from page 37)

Arum, though, had little to do with the Mayweather problem. Mayweather was perceived as one of the game's best young talents in September '99, a good-looking, likable, charismatic champion who figured to gain widespread appeal. Arum and his stepson, Top Rank Vice President Todd duBoef, negotiated a six-fight contract extension with HBO that was worth $12.5-million to Mayweather and could have been worth double that with pay-per-view fights factored in. Had he signed, only Tyson, De La Hoya, Evander Holyfield, Naseem Hamed, and Lennox Lewis would have been making more per fight.

Mayweather inexplicably turned the deal down, saying it was for "slave wages." He turned increasingly surly toward the media, got in a public dispute with his father, wound up evicting him from his home, and was virtually inactive. He had only one fight in a 12-month period, a March 2000 win over Goyo Vargas. Arum pleaded with Mayweather and his management team to agree to the deal with HBO, but the typical Mount Vesuvius eruption many expected never materialized.

"If Floyd cooperates, we can build him into something because we have a pretty good track record of that," Arum said. "We saw a lot of Sugar Ray Leonard in him, and that's what we were trying to do. But he didn't want to cooperate. Maybe he will in the future, who knows? If he does, we'll try to work with him as best we can. But I'm not going to get exorcised over it. It doesn't matter to me. It's inconsequential. If we make $5-million more, even $10-million, who the hell cares? We make good money now and we put on a lot of fights. Another $5-million isn't the be-all and end-all."

Hoffman, though, said that in years past Arum never would have allowed the Mayweather situation to escalate the way it did. For months, Top Rank employees didn't even know how to reach Mayweather. Hoffman said the Arum of old would have taken decisive action.

"I think Bob would have grabbed the kid by the ear, taken him into his office, and told him what things were, what had to be, and what needed to be done," Hoffman said. "He wouldn't have pussy-footed around. He wouldn't have let the fighter destroy himself like that. Bob would have grasped the situation and he would have made it work. I guess now, he's either tired or he doesn't care as much."

However, duBoef said Arum has worked hard to control his reactions and the result is that it has made him more effective, not less, in his job. He said Arum is able to look at the broad picture more than he used to, and as a result, he makes more even-keel decisions.

"Bob at one time took every issue as the end of the world and saw every negotiation as this heated battle," duBoef said. "Now, he's realized he's better off taking one thing at a time and not every issue is a killer. He's worked on himself. He laughs at himself now. He's able to find a response instead of flying off the handle. And to me, he's absolutely more effective this way than he was before. He's had a lot of issues to deal with, but who can argue with the way he has handled them and where he has put this company?

"I wouldn't trade our roster for anybody's, even with what has gone on. In this business, you're going to get that kind of stuff. It's part of it. Bob has come to understand that. He knows how to move on. He's looking at the big picture, and when one thing doesn't go right, he's on to the next thing without looking back."

With the sort of year he's had, not even King could blame Arum for not wanting to relive the past 12 months. ■

Kevin Iole covers boxing for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Arch-rival Don King, who says Arum is his own worst enemy, seems to be enjoying his rival's pain after King-promoted Trinidad beat De La Hoya via controversial decision in September 1999.

"Tired of absurd rankings by boxing's dubious governing bodies?

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— Sports Illustrated (May 15, 2000)

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of August 2000, the WBC as of August 2000, and the IBF as of September 2000.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	–
David Tua (NZ)	1	4	1
Mike Tyson (USA)	2	6	10
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	3	2	–
Larry Donald (USA)	4	8	3
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	5	–	–
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	6	3	6
Henry Akinwande (GB)	7	10	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	8	–	–
Clifford Etienne (USA)	9	–	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	2
John Ruiz (USA)	–	5	8
Vitaly Klitschko (UKR)	–	7	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	9	–
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	4
Hasim Rahman (USA)	13	–	5
Wladimir Klitschko (UKR)	–	–	7
Michael Grant (USA)	11	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	C
James Toney (USA)	1	2	3
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	2	4	4
Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)	3	–	11
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	4	10	–
Torsten May (GER)	5	9	2
Louis Azille (DR)	6	–	9
Carl Thompson (GB)	7	6	5
Ezra Sellars (USA)	8	–	7
Arthur Williams (USA)	9	7	6
Adam Watt (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	1	12
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	3	–
Saul Montana (MEX)	–	5	8
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	8	–
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	1
Andre Purlette (GUY)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	–	–
Clinton Woods (GB)	2	9	5
Eric Harding (USA)	3	7	1
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	8	11
Yawe Davis (ITA)	5	–	–
David Telesco (USA)	6	4	12
Thomas Ulrich (GER)	7	–	–
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	8	5	3
Derrick Harmon (USA)	9	3	8
Jean-Marc Mormerck (FRA)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	2	–
Richard Hall (USA)	16	6	–
Billy Lewis (USA)	–	10	4
Vacant	–	–	2
Antonio Tarver (USA)	13	–	6
Lincoln Carter (USA)	11	–	7
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	9
Lee Osie (SPA)	19	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Glenn Catley (GB)	C	–	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Eric Lucas (CAN)	1	–	–
Markus Beyer (GER)	2	–	10
Mario Velt (GER)	3	3	4
Richie Woodhall (GB)	4	7	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	5	1	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	6	2	–
Stephane Ouellet (CAN)	7	–	–
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	8	–	6
David Starie (GB)	9	12	11
Byron Mitchell (USA)	10	4	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	5	1
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	6	–
Fredric Alvarez (SWE)	15	8	5
Mads Larsen (DEN)	11	9	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	10	–
James Butler (USA)	19	–	2
Thomas Tate (USA)	14	11	3
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	–	–	7
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	–	8
Willie McIntyre (USA)	18	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Erland Betare (FRA)	1	–	–
David Reid (USA)	2	2	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	3	4	9
Howard Eastman (GB)	4	1	6
Robert McCracken (GB)	5	–	–
Ali Ennebati (FRA)	6	–	10
Kevin Palmer (USA)	7	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	8	–	–
Davey Hilton (CAN)	9	9	5
Antwun Echols (USA)	10	5	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	11	3	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	6	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	8	–
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	17	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	12	–	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	4
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	–	–	7
Santiago Samaniego (PAN)	–	–	8

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	1	6	–
Alfred Ankamah (GHA)	2	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	3	4	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	4	3	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	5	–	–
Tony Marshall (USA)	6	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	7	7	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	8	–	4
Derrell Coley (USA)	9	–	–
Akira Ohigashi (JAP)	10	12	–
Vacant	–	1	1
Jose Flores (MEX)	14	2	6
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	5	10
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	–	8	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	–	9	–
Ricardo Mayorga (NIC)	29	10	–
Robert Frazier (USA)	–	–	2
Ross Thompson (USA)	–	–	5
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	11	7
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	–	8
Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Shane Mosley (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	1	2	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	7	4
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	–	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	4	–	–
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	5	10	–
Jose Luis Cruz (MEX)	6	–	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	7	–	10
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	8	–	–
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	9	9	–
Oba Carr (USA)	10	6	3
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	18	1	8
Michael Trabant (GERE)	20	3	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	4	–
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	12	5	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	11	8	5
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	1
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	2
Scott Dixon (GB)	14	–	6
Andrew Murray (USA)	–	–	7
Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)	23	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	C
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	1	3	9
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	2	1	4
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	3	2	–

Arturo Gatti (CAN)	4	–	–
Gianluca Branco (ITA)	5	–	–
Ricky Quiles (USA)	6	–	–
Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	7	–	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	8	–	–
Ray Oliveira (USA)	9	–	10
Ben Tackie (GHA)	10	12	–
Antonio Diaz (USA)	15	4	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	5	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	6	–
Giuseppi Laury (ITA)	–	7	–
Felix Flores (USA)	–	8	–
Ajib Albarado (IND)	–	9	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Allan Vester (DEN)	–	–	3
George Scott (SWE)	23	–	5
Terronn Millett (USA)	–	–	6
Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)	11	11	7
Golden Johnson (USA)	18	–	8

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Luis Castillo (MEX)	C	–	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	C	–
Paul Spadafora (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	3
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	2	–	–
Steve Johnston (USA)	3	–	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	4	4	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	5	2	4
Bruno Wartelle (FRA)	6	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	7	–	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	8	–	–
James Leija (USA)	9	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	10	3	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	5	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	–	6	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	15	7	–
Raul Balbi (ARG)	–	8	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	12	9	–
Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)	20	10	11
Billy Irwin (CAN)	17	–	1
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	2
Juan Gomez-Trinidad (PR)	–	–	5
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	–	–	6
Angel Manfredy (USA)	–	11	7
Juan Lazcano (USA)	24	–	8
Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)	14	–	9
Mike Griffith (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	–	C	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	9
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	2	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	3	–	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	4	6	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	5	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	6	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	7	–	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	8	4	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	9	–	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	2
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	3	–
Jongkwon Baek (KOR)	13	5	–
Luis Navarro (USA)	18	7	12
Radford Beasley (USA)	–	8	–
Steve Forbes (USA)	25	9	3
Juan Lazcano (USA)	–	10	–
John Brown (USA)	–	–	1
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	4
David Santos (USA)	–	–	5
Raul Balbi (ARG)	–	–	6
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	7
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	–	8
Robert Garcia (USA)	14	12	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Guty Espadas (MEX)	C	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	C	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	–	–	C
Injin Chi (KOR)	1	–	–
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	2	–	8
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	3	8	–
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	4	–	–
Raul Perez (MEX)	5	–	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	6	10	6
Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)	7	–	–
Philip Ndou (SA)	8	7	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	9	3	–
Edgar Barcenas (MEX)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	2	4
Derrick Gainer (USA)	14	4	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	24	5	3
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	13	6	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	9	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	21	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Augie Sanchez (USA)	–	–	5
David Toledo (USA)	–	–	7
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	9
Frankie Toledo (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Clarence Adams (USA)	–	C	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	–	–	C
Michael Brodie (GB)	1	7	2
Willie Jorrin (USA)	2	12	4
Oscar Larios (MEX)	3	–	–
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	4	–	3
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	5	–	10
Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)	6	–	5
Cesar Soto (MEX)	7	–	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	8	8	6
Israel Vazquez (MEX)	9	–	7
Yongjin Cho (KOR)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	18	2	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	4	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	20	5	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	26	6	–
Osamu Sato (JAP)	–	9	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	15	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
F. Rakkiatgym (INDO)	–	–	8
Hector Julia Avila (DR)	12	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	C	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	1	4	–
Jess Maca (PHIL)	2	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	3	6	3
Ricardo Barajas (MEX)	4	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	5	–	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	6	8	9
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	7	–	–
Alejandro Estrada (MEX)	8	–	–
Jorge Lacierva (MEX)	9	–	–
Francisco Mateos (MEX)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	1
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	2	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	3	5
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	5	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	7	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	–	9	–
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Pete Frissina (USA)	–	–	4
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	6
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	–	7
Dobrak Arter (INDO)	–	–	8
Steve Dotse (GHA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	C	–	–
Hideki Todaka (JAP)	–	C	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	–	–
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	2	–	8
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	3	–	–
Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)	4	–	–
Seungrok Choi (KOR)	5	–	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	6	–	–
Kazuhiro Ryuko (JAP)	7	–	–
Trinidad Mendoza (MEX)	8	–	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	9	6	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	3
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	3	5
Edison Torres (VEN)	–	4	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	5	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	7	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	–	8	4
Lester Fuentes (NIC)	22	9	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	–	10	9
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Vernie Torres (USA)	–	–	6
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	–	7
Everardo Morales (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)	C	–	–
Eric Morel (USA)	–	C	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	C
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	1	–	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	2	–	–
Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)	3	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	4	5	1
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	5	–	–
Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	6	–	–
Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)	7	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	8	10	5
Everardo Morales (MEX)	9	–	–
Celes Kobayashi (JAP)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	29	2	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	3	–
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	–	4	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	–	6	3
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	7	–
Mzukisi Sikali (SA)	–	8	–
Jose Lopez (VEN)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Zoltan Lunka (TUR)	18	–	4
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	–	–	6
Jose Lagos (ARG)	–	–	7
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	8
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	9
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	17	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yosam Choi (KOR)	C	–	–
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	–	C	–
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	–	–	C
Jorge Arce (MEX)	1	6	11
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	2	8	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	3	2	–
Panieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	4	–	–
Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)	5	–	–
Takayuki Korogi (JAP)	6	–	–
Eric Ortiz (MEX)	7	–	–
Juanito Rubillar (PHIL)	8	–	–
Kohki Tanaka (JAP)	9	11	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	10	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	1	–
Yura Dimas (MON)	19	3	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	4	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	5	–
Masibulele Makepula (SA)	–	7	4
Gilberto Keb Baas (MEX)	–	9	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	23	–	3
Everardo Morales (MEX)	–	–	5
Pongsaklek Sithkanongsak (THAI)	–	–	6
Alex Sanchez (PR)	–	–	7
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	8
Taekil Lee (KOR)	24	–	9
Domingo Guillen (DR)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	C	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	–	C	–
Zolani Fetelo (SA)	–	–	C
Daniel Reyes (COL)	1	3	1
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	2	–	–
Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)	3	–	8
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	4	–	9
Juan Keb Baas (MEX)	5	–	–
Makoto Suzuki (JAP)	6	11	–
Jaewon Kim (KOR)	7	–	–
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	8	–	–
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	9	–	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	10	12	–
Vacant	–	1	2
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	2	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	4	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	16	6	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	7	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	8	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	17	9	–
Fasan Pongsawan (THAI)	–	10	–
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	3
Kermin Guardia (COL)	–	–	4
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	–	–	5
Rocky Lim (TWN)	–	–	6
Alberto Rossel (PERU)	–	–	7
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	10

PHILLY BOOMS BRISCOE AS COMING CHAMP

By Joseph Bevans Bush

In North Philly's teeming black colony, they call him "Baaad Bennie." And for good reason. He is one of the most feared punchers in the middleweight division and, pound-for-pound, one of the strongest men in the ring today. Bennie Briscoe has held middleweight champion Carlos Monzon to a draw and has scored a kayo over Vicente Rondon, number-one light heavyweight contender.

Recalling the Monzon fight, Briscoe said: "Carlos and I fought 10 tough rounds four years ago down in Buenos Aires, and the bout was called a draw. I've never been a man to argue about decisions, but the fight was held in his hometown, so, for them to give me a draw, I must've won. At any rate, I always thought I did. One thing for sure, the cat has never had eyes for a rematch."

Judging from Briscoe's record in return bouts, Monzon should avoid him incessantly. And he has. The muscular, bald-headed Philadelphian has reversed all but four of his losses, and in grand fashion, knocking out his previous conquerors. His overall record is 40-9-2 (33).

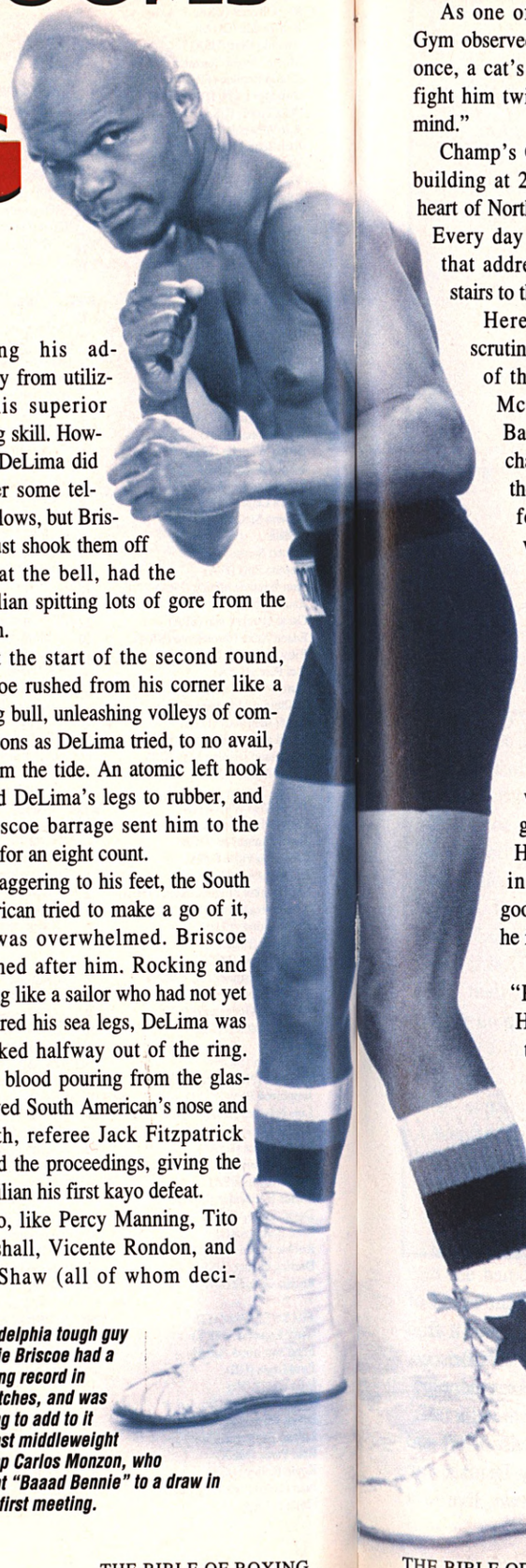
Briscoe's most recent conquest of a former conqueror came last summer in a bout at The Spectrum in Philadelphia. The victim was Brazil's Juarez DeLima, who was stopped in two rounds. DeLima had gained a 10-round nod over Baaad Bennie a couple of years before in New York.

This time it was a different story as Briscoe took command from the opening bell, throwing power-laden rights and lefts and applying terrible pressure, preventing his adversary from utilizing his superior boxing skill. However, DeLima did deliver some telling blows, but Briscoe just shook them off and, at the bell, had the Brazilian spitting lots of gore from the mouth.

At the start of the second round, Briscoe rushed from his corner like a raging bull, unleashing volleys of combinations as DeLima tried, to no avail, to stem the tide. An atomic left hook turned DeLima's legs to rubber, and a Briscoe barrage sent him to the floor for an eight count.

Staggering to his feet, the South American tried to make a go of it, but was overwhelmed. Briscoe stormed after him. Rocking and rolling like a sailor who had not yet acquired his sea legs, DeLima was knocked halfway out of the ring. With blood pouring from the glassy-eyed South American's nose and mouth, referee Jack Fitzpatrick halted the proceedings, giving the Brazilian his first kayo defeat.

So, like Percy Manning, Tito Marshall, Vicente Rondon, and Joe Shaw (all of whom decisioned Briscoe the first time around), DeLima ended up knocked out by Briscoe in a rematch.



Philadelphia tough guy Bennie Briscoe had a sterling record in rematches, and was hoping to add to it against middleweight champ Carlos Monzon, who fought "Baaad Bennie" to a draw in their first meeting.

As one of the regulars at Champ's Gym observed: "To fight Bennie Briscoe once, a cat's gotta be mighty brave. To fight him twice, he's gotta be outta his mind."

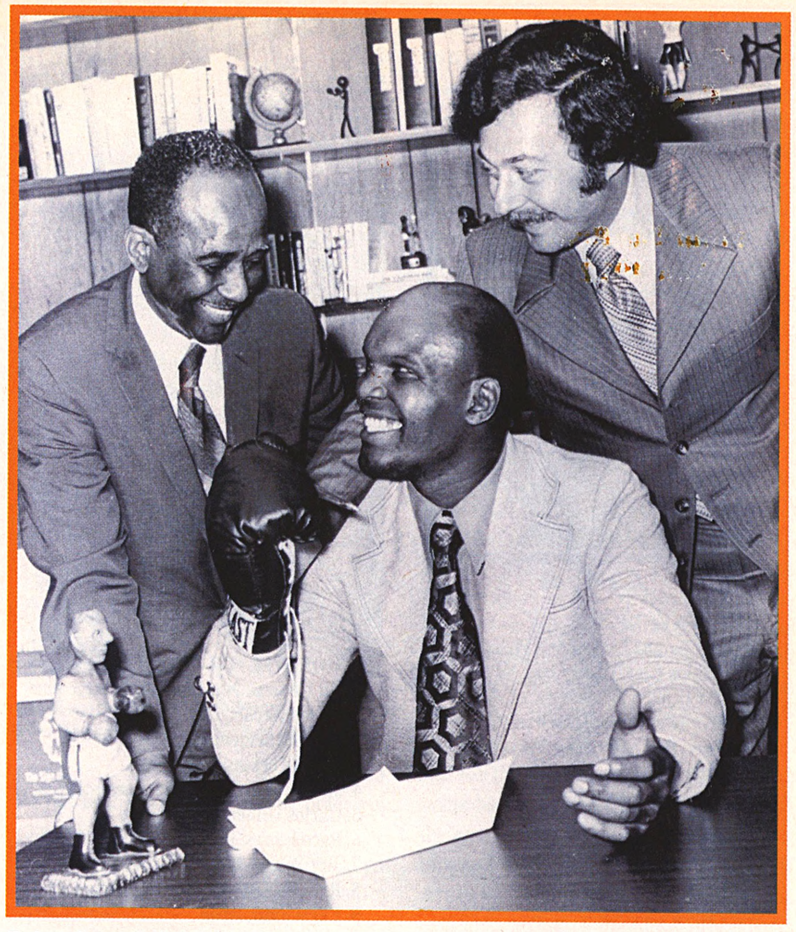
Champ's Gymnasium is housed in a building at 2305 Ridge Avenue, in the heart of North Philadelphia's "Soulville." Every day Briscoe goes faithfully to that address and climbs the rickety stairs to the second floor.

Here he works out under the scrutiny of Quenzell McCall. One of the best trainers in boxing, McCall has tutored Percy Bassett, interim featherweight champion of the world during the '40s, Jimmy Champagne, former aspirant for welterweight honors, and Lenny Matthews, one-time lightweight contender.

"I've been in the boxing business most of my life," said McCall, "and I have handled countless fighters. However, few have been less difficult to work with than Bennie. The guy doesn't drink or smoke. He trains religiously, follows instructions well, and is a good family man. I would say he is a trainer's dream."

A philosopher once said, "Patience is a virtue." However, were he around today, he would get a lot of static from Bennie Briscoe.

Briscoe has been a contender for a long time. In fact, back in 1964 he kayoed Charley Scott in one round to annex the Pennsylvania welterweight championship. He was looked on as a man destined to be world champion. But, no such thing. The welter and middleweight titles have changed hands more times than a dollar bill in a North Philly street corner crap game, and Baaad Bennie is still waiting for his shot.



Trainer Quenzell McCall (to Briscoe's right) had been in the boxing business most of his life and had come across few fighters easier to work with than Briscoe. That's Briscoe's manager, Arnold Weiss, looking over the fighter's left shoulder.

"It seems like everybody has had a crack at the title but me," lamented Briscoe. "Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, everybody. Now, I ain't never been the kinda cat to begrudge any man his due, but some of those clowns who have fought for the title would hardly be good sparrin' partners for me."

Maybe Briscoe is too good for his own good. A couple of years ago, when Nino Benvenuti was training for one of his title tilts with Emile Griffith, Briscoe was hired as a sparring partner by the Italian's camp. After a few rounds of boxing, he was fired.

"I guess I hit Nino too hard and too often," laughed Briscoe. "Anyhow, they told me to pack my bags."

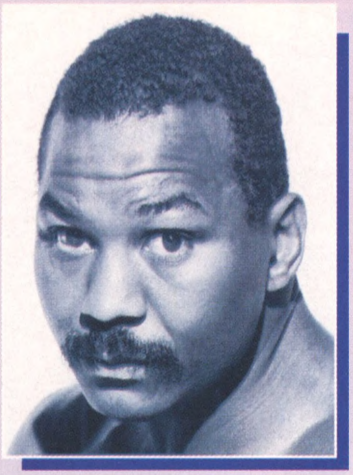
Born in Augusta, Georgia, Briscoe is from a family of 14 children (10 boys and four girls). His father stands 6'2" and his mother is of average height. All of Bennie's brothers are well over 6'. His sisters, like his mom, are average in height. Briscoe is the oldest child, and at 5'9", the shortest boy.

Briscoe moved to Philadelphia—his parents and their other children still live in Georgia—as a pudgy 200-pound teenager. He started boxing in the amateurs while a student at Simon Gratz High School in North Philly in 1957. He won three Middle Atlantic AAU championships in the welterweight class. In 1962, he was runner-up in the nationals.

In 1960, he made a bid for the United States Olympic team. He advanced to the finals of the trials. In those trials was a young man from Louisville, Kentucky, name of Cassius Clay.

"He was a friendly cat who seemed to be in love with the world," said Briscoe.

THE RING RATINGS, May 1972



Jose Napoles

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Frazier, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Cassius Clay**, Cherry Hill, NJ
2. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **George Foreman**, Hayward, CA
4. **Floyd Patterson**, New York, NY
5. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
6. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
7. **Jose Luis Garcia**, Venezuela
8. **Jose Urtain**, Spain
9. **Larry Middleton**, Baltimore, MD
10. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Bob Foster, Washington, D.C.
1. **Vicente Rondon**, Venezuela
2. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
3. **Chris Finnegan**, England
4. **Pierre Fourie**, South Africa
5. **Mike Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Jimmy Dupree**, Jersey City, NJ
7. **Pat O'Connor**, Rochester, MN
8. **Conny Velensek**, Germany
9. **Larry Buck**, Seattle, WA
10. **Brian Kelly**, Cushing, OK

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Monzon, Argentina
1. **Jean-Claude Bouttier**, France
2. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
3. **Bennie Briscoe**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
5. **Bunny Sterling**, England
6. **Rodrigo Valdes**, Colombia
7. **Miguel de Oliviera**, Brazil
8. **Koichi Wajima**, Japan
9. **Eugene Hart**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Rafael Gutierrez**, Mexico

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jose Napoles, Mexico
1. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
2. **Adolph Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
3. **Robert Gallois**, France
4. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
5. **Armando Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY
7. **Marcel Cerdan Jr.**, France
8. **Sandro Lopopolo**, Italy
9. **Thurman Durden**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Nate Robinson**, Los Angeles, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Nicolino Loche, Argentina
1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
3. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
4. **Jimmy Robertson**, San Francisco, CA
5. **Carlos Gimenez**, Argentina
6. **Paco Flores**, Phoenix, AZ
7. **Jeff White**, Australia
8. **Rodolfo Gonzalez**, Long Beach, CA
9. **Eagle Sato**, Japan
10. **Johnny Gant**, Washington, D.C.

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ken Buchanan, Scotland
1. **Antonio Puddu**, Italy
2. **Mando Ramos**, Long Beach, CA
3. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
4. **Al Ford**, Canada
5. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
6. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
7. **Shinichi Kadota**, Japan
8. **Alfonso Frazier**, Panama
9. **Raymundo Dias**, Brazil
10. **Raul Venerdini**, Argentina

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alfredo Marcano, Venezuela
1. **Frankie Otero**, Miami, FL
2. **William Martinez**, Nicaragua
3. **Jose Luis Lopez**, Mexico
4. **Sammy Goss**, Trenton, NJ
5. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Ray Lampkin**, Portland, OR
7. **Ugo Poli**, Italy
8. **Jose Marin**, Costa Rica
9. **Frankie Crawford**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Kuniaki Shibata, Japan
1. **Ricardo Arredondo**, Mexico
2. **Ernesto Marcel**, Panama
3. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
4. **Ben Villaflor**, Philippines
5. **Jose Legra**, Spain
6. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
7. **Clemente Sanchez**, Mexico
8. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
9. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
10. **Tahar Ben Hasson**, Tunis

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ruben Olivares, Mexico
1. **Rodolfo Martinez**, Mexico
2. **Rafael Herrera**, Mexico
3. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
4. **Jesus Pimentel**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Enrique Pinder**, Panama
6. **Augustin Senin**, Spain
7. **Alan Rudkin**, England
8. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
9. **Rogelio Lara**, Mexico
10. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Erbito Salvarria, Philippines
1. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
2. **Masao Ohba**, Japan
3. **Servillo de Oliviera**, Brazil
4. **Lorenzo Gutierrez**, Mexico
5. **Miguel Canto**, Mexico
6. **Venich Borkorsor**, Thailand
7. **Ricardo Delgado**, Mexico
8. **Fernando Atzori**, Italy
9. **Fernando Cabanela**, Philippines
10. **Orlando Amoros**, Panama

"Of course, at that time, I called him Cassius Clay as that was what he called himself. Today, I call him Muhammad Ali and for the same reason. Unlike another fighter in Philly, I ain't against callin' him by that name. Also, I was glad to see him get 'cool' with the government in that draft thing."

If you were to go around 24th and Indiana and ask the first person you saw where Briscoe lives, they would gladly direct you to his home. The people are very friendly in that area. On entering the Briscoe domicile, you would more than likely hear a recording, as Bennie loves music.

"I've always dug different kinds of music, and in my collection you'll find albums from Bach to Basie," said Briscoe. "Listening to music sure relaxes me, especially before a fight."

Briscoe, his attractive wife Rita, and their two children, Tracey Denise, age four, and Bennie Jr., age two, live in a

Nino Benvenuti, shown getting knocked down in his middleweight title fight with Monzon in '71, once fired Briscoe as a sparring partner. "I guess I hit Nino too hard and too often," Briscoe surmised.

comfortable row house in the 3000 block of North 24th Street. Rita attends all his fights and feels, "My Bennie will be champ as soon as he is given the opportunity to box that fellow Monzon again. He is a good husband and father. He wants the best for his family."

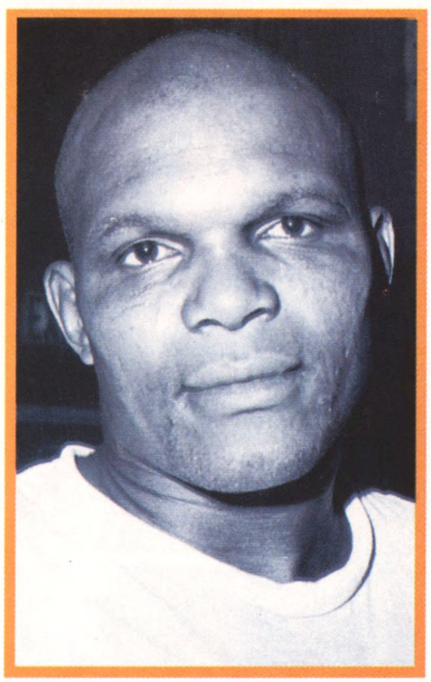
Briscoe launched his pro career as a welterweight in September 1962 with a four-round win over someone named Sam Samuel. Ten fights later he stopped Scott in the first round.

In this time when young men can't grow their hair long enough, Briscoe is rather unique. The 28-year-old slugger sports a bald head that rivals Yul Brynner's. He has worn (or maybe not worn is more appropriate) his hair in such a manner all his life.

"You see, my parents have 10 sons. So, you can just imagine the bread needed for haircuts. So, when we were kids, in order that he got his money's worth, Pop would tell the barber to keep cuttin' until there was nothing left. I got used to it, and now it is a part of me. I don't go to the barber's anymore; I do it myself with Magic Shave. I don't feel I would look right with hair after all of these years of being bald."

When Baaad Bennie hits his foes, he hurts them—and they hurt all night long and for days to come. Even when he comes up on the short end of the decision, he has been known to send the other guy to a hospital.

Such was the case the night he fought that grueling 10-rounder with Stanley "Kitten" Hayward a few years ago. They waged a heck of a battle, slugging each other from bell to bell with neither man wanting to give ground. When the smoke cleared, Hayward got the nod, but looked more like the loser. Both eyes were puffed, and his face had more bumps than a country road.



One of 14 children, Briscoe always wore the bald look. "My parents having 10 sons, you can just image the bread needed for haircuts," Briscoe said. "I don't think I'd look right with hair after all of these years of being bald."

"It was a real war, and we fought our hearts out. He won a split decision, and we both took some terrible wallops," recalled Briscoe. "After the fight, he ended up talking outta his head in the dressin' room, cryin,' and pleadin' with God to let him live. He went to the hospital. I caught a cab and went home. I wanted a rematch, but it never came off."

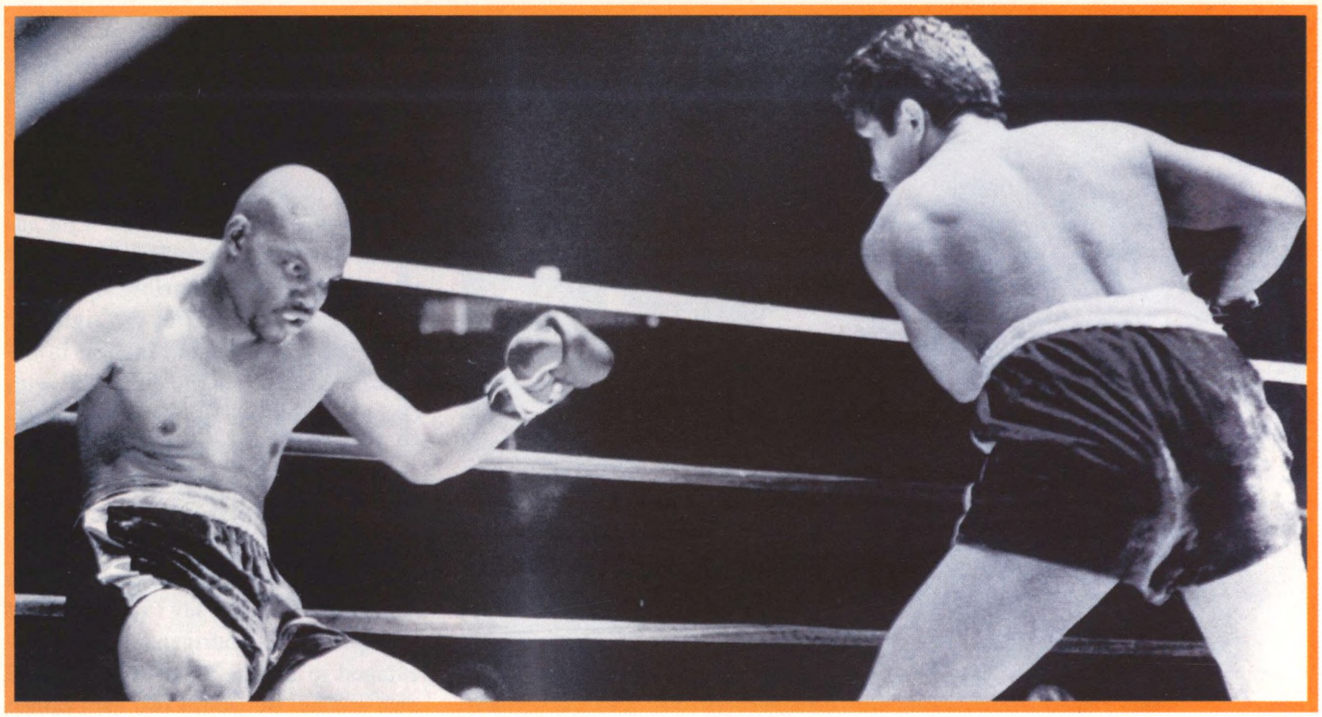
It is an indication of Hayward's sound judgment in not granting Briscoe a rematch. Briscoe is very "Baaad" news in return bouts. In fact, only ex-welterweight champion Luis Rodriguez has not succumbed to Bennie's punch the second time around. He gained two hard-earned dukes over Briscoe. One bout was held in Philly, and the other in Madison Square Garden.

Due to his punishing punch, obtaining bouts has been a problem for Briscoe. In the past year, Philadelphia's youthful promoter, J Russell Peltz, brother-in-law of Arnold Weiss, Briscoe's manager, has extended offers to Freddie Little, Curtis Cokes, Don Fullmer, and Emile Griffith to come to Philly and oppose Briscoe. None of them indicated any interest.

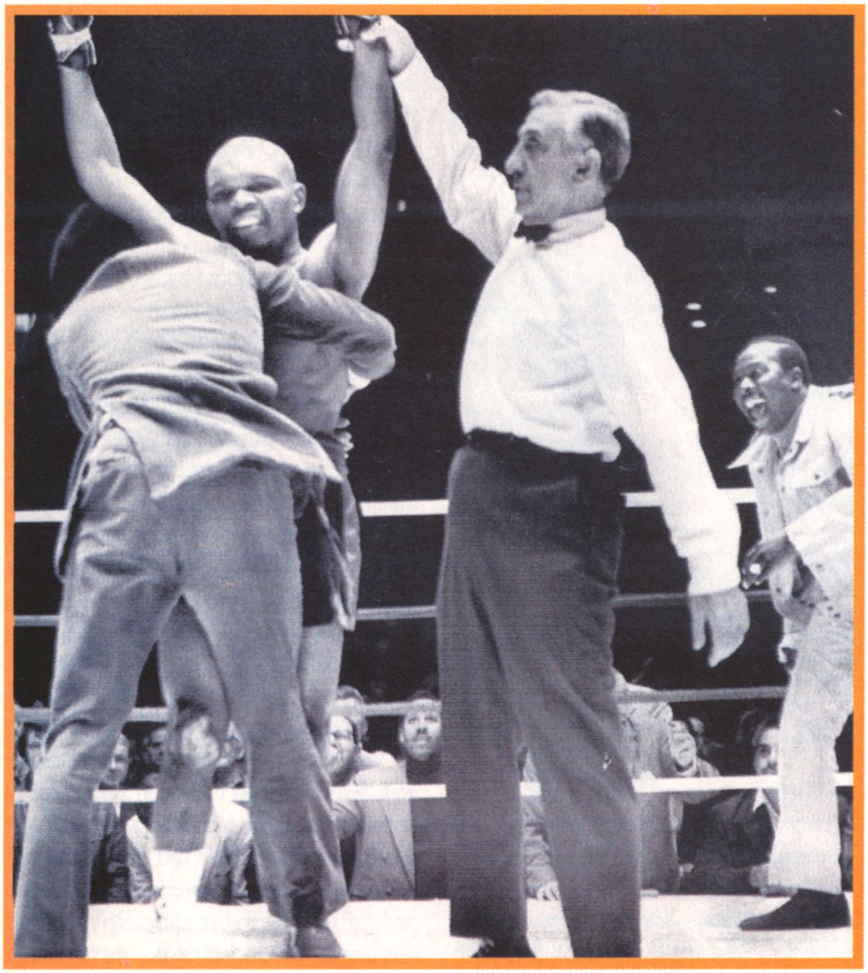
Briscoe appears to be almost a sure bet to get his long-awaited title fight this year. In fact, negotiations are in the works to induce Monzon to come to Philly and defend against him for $100,000.

Briscoe's 10-year dream of a title match was all but shattered in November of last year in a bout with Mexico's hard-punching middleweight Rafael Gutierrez in Philadelphia. The fight was the feature attraction of the 23rd annual Deborah Hospital Fight for Life benefit show. Briscoe was appearing as a substitute for ailing Cyclone Hart.

Weighing in at 161 to his opponent's 164, Briscoe (who had been decked only once previously in his career) walked right into a short, power-packed right hand and was in a world of trouble with just 30 seconds of the first round gone. He staggered drunkenly as Gutierrez bombarded him with a series of blows, and down he went. It was almost unbelievable. The heretofore



Briscoe's 10-year dream of a title match was nearly shattered in November 1971 in a bout with Mexico's hard-punching middleweight Rafael Gutierrez, who dropped Briscoe twice in the first round. Briscoe narrowly avoided a fight-ending third knockdown.



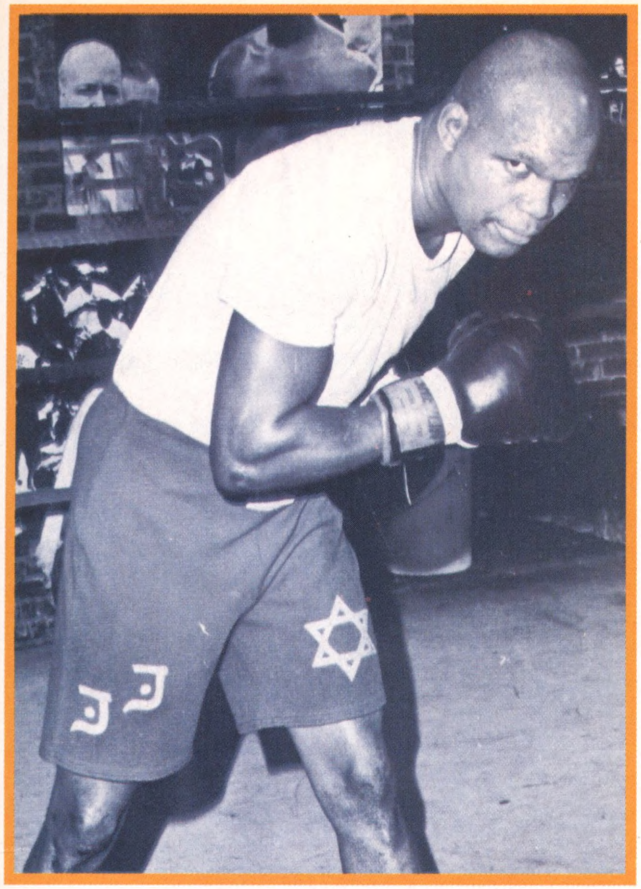
A victorious Briscoe has his hand raised as fans mob the ring. Briscoe rebounded to stomp out Gutierrez, who was left on his hands and knees courtesy of a left-right combination.

indestructible Bennie Briscoe was flat on his back.

Instinctively, Briscoe struggled to his feet to be met by another volley that sent him once again to the canvas. He had taken so many terrible shots that, had the fight been held anywhere but in his hometown, it would've been stopped.

But the bald-headed Briscoe is a man of awesome strength and fierce pride. He once more picked himself off the deck and, with his eyes rolling in his head, stood toe-to-toe with the Mexican, who was trying desperately to put him down for the fight-ending third time. Briscoe, still in a daze, started to get off some of his own bombs and, at the bell, an earth-shaking left hook to the body dropped Rafael to his knees. *(Editor's note: Briscoe's punch was after the bell and well below the belt.)*

McCall plopped Briscoe down on the stool (Briscoe usually stands during the minute respite) and worked feverishly to get his man in shape for round two. The bell sounded with Briscoe charging from his corner like an enraged panther, putting every ounce of himself into each punch, and at 2:17 of the round, his opponent was counted out on his hands and knees after a tremendous left-right dropped him to the floor.



Briscoe wanted to be middleweight champion, which meant spending countless hours in the gym. If he beat Monzon, Baaad Bennie was hoping to use a portion of the prize money to open a boys' club in North Philly.

After the bout, McCall said, "There was too much foolishness going on in the dressing room before the fight. There were entirely too many people back there, and they had Bennie thinking about everything except the business at hand. Consequently, he went into the ring with the wrong attitude. The man just walked right into that right hand. This won't happen again. In the future, I'm gonna keep the dressing crowd down to a minimum."

No matter how his boxing career develops, Briscoe intends to keep his job with Philadelphia's Federally Funded Rat Control Program. Floyd Jackson, a co-worker, said, "Bennie is well-liked by the other cats on the job. I used to box in the Army, and sometimes on our lunch break, he and I throw a few at each other. The other men really eat it up."

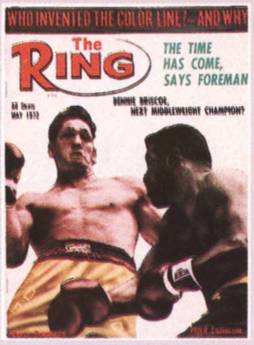
Briscoe wants to be middleweight champion. He wants this not only to justify the years of punching and being punched, but for Rita and the kids. In addition, he plans to do something for the youngsters in the crowded streets of North Philly.

"With the money I can make as champion, maybe I can start a boys' club or something," he said. "I believe in giving somethin' back to the community. After all, these are the people who pay their hard-earned dough to see me fight."

Baaad Bennie Briscoe fought six times last year and scored six kayos. If his handlers are able to get Monzon to come to Philly and defend against him, and if Briscoe's fantastic return-bout record holds up, he may be middleweight champion of the world this year. ■

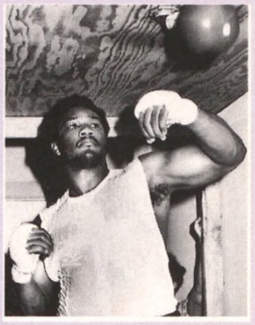
THE RING, May 1972

The Cover: Floyd Patterson, at 37 and with 20 years of ring wear on him, wanted another shot at the heavyweight title after edging Oscar Bonavena in a 10-round bout at Madison Square Garden. The official scorecards gave one verdict, but THE RING saw another, scoring the bout to Bonavena, who fought the second half of the 10-rounder with a broken hand.



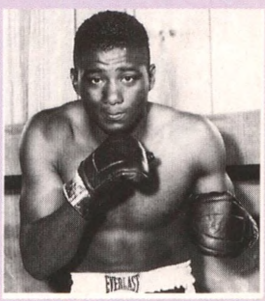
Downing Daniels: As the details for a possible rematch with Muhammad Ali were being worked out, Joe Frazier vanquished Terry Daniels in just four rounds. While the Ali fight was being negotiated, there was also talk of Frazier defending the heavyweight title against Jerry Quarry.

Is George Ready for Joe?: George Foreman was destroying everyone in his path in 1972, and his next target was heavyweight champion Joe Frazier. Foreman and his manager, Dick Sadler, told Madison Square Garden Boxing Director Harry Markson that they were ready for a showdown with Frazier.



Bobbing For Gold: Duane Bobick was working toward making a strong bid for a gold medal at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. The greatest feeling in the world, said Minnesota native Bobick, is "standing up there in another country and hearing the National Anthem being played."

Fighter Of The Month: Former heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson won less than impressively over Oscar Bonavena, yet the victory was good enough to elevate the first two-time heavyweight champ from sixth place to fourth in THE RING rankings.



LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

LOOK WHO'S FACING A REAL OPPONENT ...

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Hamed: Eager to enter the danger zone

Finally, after a three-year parade of fights against guys with no realistic chance of beating him, **Prince Naseem Hamed** is putting his undefeated record on the line against a legitimate threat: **Marco Antonio Barrera**. Hamed publicist **George Azar** said in mid-October that a verbal agreement had been reached—and was confident that the official contract signing would soon follow—for a Hamed-Barrera clash in late-February or early-March. And Hamed, who recently vacated the WBO featherweight title he held for five years in order to take on Barrera rather than meet mandatory challenger **Istvan Kovacs**, is talking like a man who's as tired of his fights with no-hopers as we are.

"My immediate goal," Hamed said in a press release on his Web site, princenaseem.com, "is to fight the man widely considered to be the greatest threat to my dominance over the featherweight division, the great Mexican champion Marco Antonio Barrera. Marco Barrera, hear this: I hereby challenge you to face me, man-to-man ... with the winner to be recognized as the one true featherweight champion."

According to Azar, if Hamed beats Barrera, he wants **Erik Morales** next. For a fighter who has left us asking so many questions recently, Naz sure is sounding now like a guy ready to make statements.

THE GRANT PLAN

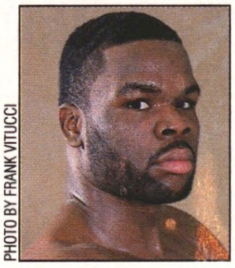


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

Grant: Hoping to improve

There was speculation after **Michael Grant's** meltdown against **Lennox Lewis** last April that Grant was finished. Even if he fought again—a serious "if" in the eyes of a lot of people—he had been exposed and embarrassed, and some believed he would never be a real contender again. And that may indeed be the case.

But it just as easily may not. First off, Grant is definitely returning to the ring, against a softie on a **Cedric Kushner** "Heavyweight Explosion" card on November 30, and then against someone vaguely respectable on an HBO *Boxing After Dark* card on January 13, 2001. But Grant will not be rushed in against anyone too dangerous, and that's not because his backers are afraid to match him tough. It's because Grant is serious about improving and making another run at the heavyweight title, and he wants to ease his way back in while he works on what adviser Craig **Hamilton** calls "new techniques."

"He can't just go in and rely on his size anymore," Hamilton said. "He knows he has to make adjustments to get over that hump and beat a guy like Lennox Lewis. He can beat almost anyone else with his natural gifts, but he knows he has to work on things if he wants to take it to the next level. He's looking to bring in another trainer in addition to **Don Turner** to help add new elements to his game."

Though Grant's opponent for January 13 was still up in the air as of press time, the co-feature in the heavyweight doubleheader was already set: **Hasim Rahman** vs. **Danell Nicholson**.

LISTEN UP

The **Shane Mosley-Oscar De La Hoya** rematch situation is shaping up. Assuming Sugar Shane has defeated **Antonio Diaz** by the time you read this (a fairly safe assumption), he plans to fight again on February 24, 2001, against **Arturo Gatti**. De La Hoya, meanwhile, is looking to return to the ring in January (no opponents had been mentioned as of press time), and May is the month being discussed for a rematch with Mosley. And don't worry about De La Hoya's legal difficulties with **Bob Arum**; "The Golden Boy" says he'll fight regardless ... **Jose Luis Castillo's** next defense of the WBC lightweight title will come against either mandatory challenger and former champ **Cesar Bazan** (a pick-'em type fight) or former IBF junior light champ **Diego Corrales** (a fight in which champion Castillo would be a big underdog) ... On a related note, the title Corrales recently vacated will be vied for by **John Brown** and **Steve Forbes** on December 3 on FOX SportsNet. ■

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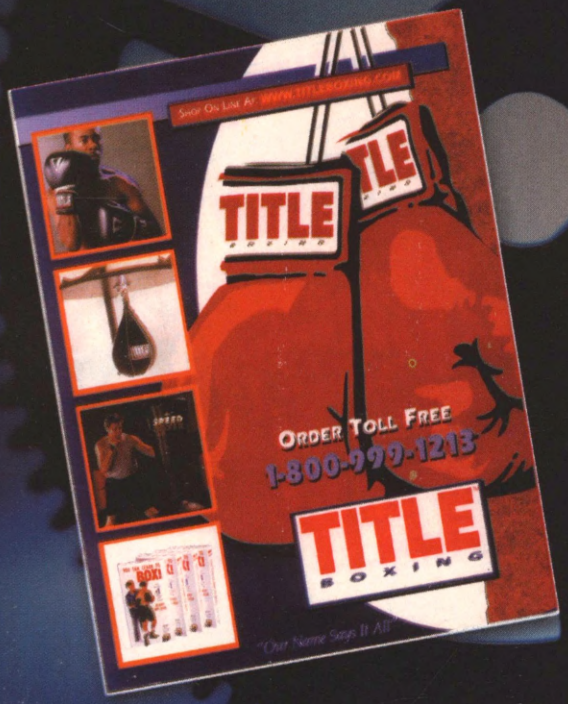

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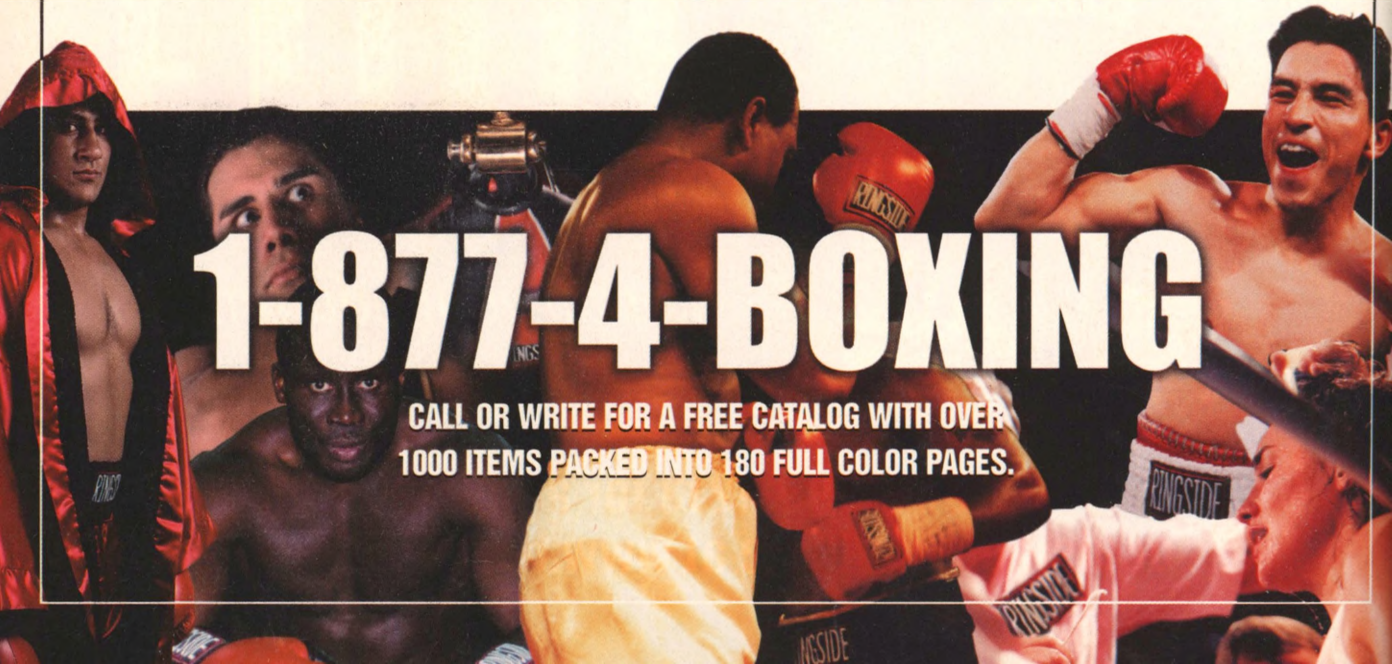

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